

# THE AMERICAN Legion

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*The magazine for a strong America*

## TEAM 100

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# 100th contents

November 2018 • Vol. 185, No. 5

## ON THE COVER

Fayetteville, N.C., American Legion Post 202 Adjutant Erinn Watkins helps lead her fellow veterans in a video shoot to promote Team 100, National Commander Brett Reistad's membership campaign theme this year. **See Page 8 to learn more about Team 100.** Photo by Schelly Stone

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The American Legion took the nation by storm in 1919, growing from zero to 685,000 in just eight months.

*By Mark Seavey*

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A flag corps member from the "Spirit of Worthington" Trojan Marching Band performs during The American Legion's 100th National Convention Parade on Aug. 26. **Go to Page 32 for more on the historic convention.**

Photo by Schelly Stone

*The American Legion Magazine*, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 13,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.



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**OF MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS** Matt Grills

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**ASSOCIATE EDITOR** Julie Campbell

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS** Steve Brooks  
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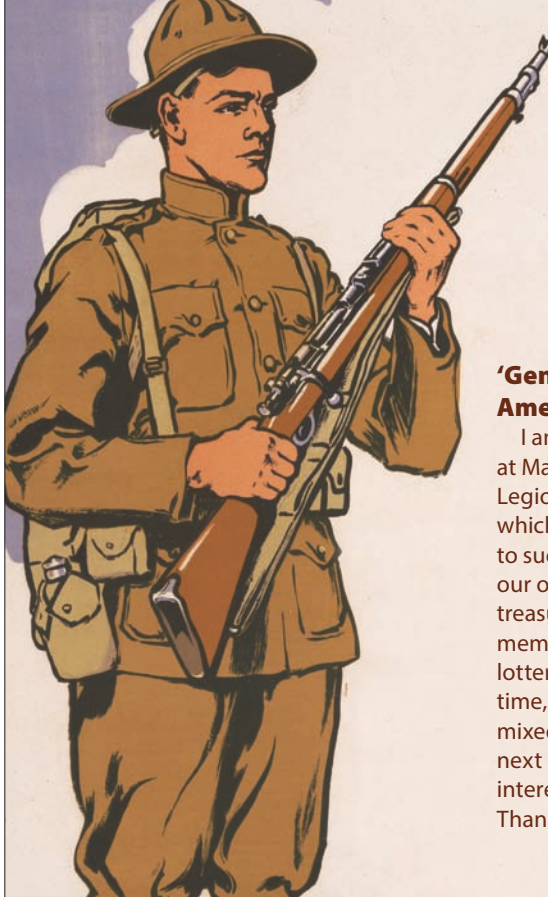
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## 'Genesis of The American Legion'

I am sitting at my table looking at Mark Seavey's article about the Legion's beginnings (September), which I will keep. I look forward to successive articles explaining our organization's history. What a treasure. I am a Paid Up for Life member, but having a 5 in the lottery and being in college at the time, I served proudly but with mixed emotions. I will read the next installment with much interest and bind it with the first. Thank you.

— Jon Paul Honnold, Kansas, Ill.

What a fantastic article on how the Legion became what it is today. I am proud to be a life member. Some items really sounded on-key to me:

- Universal military training – not universal military service – would be a Legion priority.

- "We favor a national military and naval system based on universal military obligation, to include a relatively small regular army and navy, and a citizen army and navy capable of rapid expansion sufficient to meet any national emergency."

Why can't we have that today? We don't need to prepare for and promote regional wars just to test our capabilities and strength. The Plattsburgh Idea and system could incorporate our Guard and reserves as well as all the branches.

I thank Mark Seavey for his research and presentation. I will try to become more involved in the Legion.

— Bernard F. Kenan, Mesa, Ariz.

Franklin D'Olier was awarded the Army Distinguished Service Medal, not the Distinguished Service Cross, which is awarded for action in combat.

— William J. Perret, Metairie, La.

## 'Friends in High Places'

I want to comment on Alan W. Dowd's article about the best allies we have in the Middle East: the Kurds (September). This was a wonderful story, and I am sad our country decided to pull the rug out from under them when we were challenged by Turkey and Iraq to stand off. We have never had an ally in the Middle East so dedicated to fighting with us on the ground, allowing us to use air bases in their territory, and yet we turned our backs on them when they were under attack by Iraq, Turkey and their rebel allies. It is time to establish a separate nation for the Kurds so they can finally govern themselves.

— D. Trimble, St. Paul, Minn.

**‘Mind, Body & Soul’**

The article by Henry Howard (September) highlighted the efforts of American Legion posts to assist veterans with PTSD.

This is an admirable endeavor. Although I do not participate in yoga myself, I understand that stretching is an important part of the process. But I feel the photograph and description on the front cover are in bad taste. Why would a photo of men with their arms in a “surrender” position be used with a “Warrior Pose” caption? “Surrender” and “warrior” is an oxymoron.

– John W. Nord, Franklin, N.C.

**Editor’s note:** The caption is taken from the name of the yoga routine, which is called Warrior Pose. Its original name is Virabhadrasana, named for a Hindu mythological warrior. Pictured on the cover is the Warrior I Pose, one of several variations.

**Rollback of banking regulations**

I just finished reading September’s Big Issues. I was working with mortgages during the 1990s and remember the briefings about the new procedure for “stated income loans.” We were forbidden from verifying the actual income of applicants, based on government regulations imposed on the banking industry. We were warned of fines and penalties if we attempted any verification. If a person seeking a home loan claimed an income of \$75,000, that is what we had to use as the basis for ability to repay the loan, regardless of what the

person’s actual income might have been. It was government meddling in the financial industry, not a lack of oversight, that created the “crisis.”

– Michael W. Dunegan, Las Vegas

**Another top sports city**

Lyn Mettler’s article (Travel, August) missed what I believe is arguably one of the top sports cities in the United States: the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. We have the NFL Vikings, NHL Wild, NBA Timberwolves, WNBA Lynx, MLS United, MLB Twins, St. Paul Saints baseball and the Big Ten University of Minnesota Golden Gophers, along with five or more small-college programs.

– Pete Gibson, Chisago City, Minn.

**‘Over Here’**

Mark Van Ells’ article (June) brought back memories of my father, who served at Camp Taylor, Ky., in 1918. His family were members of the Church of the Brethren. Though they were conscientious objectors, those of that faith were drafted anyway and assigned to the Medical Corps. He said he fought the battle of the flu at Camp Taylor, carrying out bedpans and dead bodies, and swore he’d never serve as an enlisted man again.

He finished college in 1921 and taught at Kokomo High School in Indiana for a year, then was recruited by Culver Military Academy to teach math and coach athletics. He went through reserve officer training and got his commission. He also earned his Distinguished Rifle Medal at Camp Perry, Ohio, in 1925.

In 1931, Culver cut staff due to the Depression, and my father returned to the farm to support his family. He was called to active duty with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1935; he’d been promoted to captain while at Culver. He served as commander at the CCC camp in Medaryville, Ind., for six months. Unable to keep up with the work required to keep his commission, he resigned it on Dec. 2, 1941. He tried to re-enlist when we entered World War II but was turned down because the nation felt his farm production was more important to the war effort. Also, he was 45, which put him way down the list to be drafted.

– Willard P. Dunbar Jr., Glenview, Ill.

**‘A major milestone’**

I enlisted in the Army in 1952 and was discharged in 1955, but I have been a member of The American Legion for only 18 years. I regret that I failed to join earlier. I have always been proud not only of the Legion’s support of our veterans, but also of its outstanding activities that benefit the citizens of our nation.

As the Legion prepared to elect its next national commander in August, I reflected on the significance of having a woman as the leader of this great organization. This was a major milestone in our history. To me, the Legion is a truly inclusive patriotic organization in today’s society. This is evident at the conclusion of Denise Rohan’s outstanding year as national commander.

– Aldo R. Neyman, Indianapolis

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1. Maselli DJ, Amalakuhan B, Keyt H, Diaz AA. Suspecting non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis: What the busy primary care clinician needs to know. *Int J Clin Pract.* 2017;71(2):e12924.
2. Basu S, VA/DoD Issue First COPD Guideline Update Since 2007. *U.S. Medicine.* 2015.
3. Martínez-García MA, de la Rosa Carrillo D, Soler-Cataluña JJ, et al. Prognostic value of bronchiectasis in patients with moderate-to-severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* 2013;187:823–831.

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# Team 100: timeless values, new approaches

The American Legion began with a vision that has withstood the test of time. That vision was to strengthen America by improving the lives of veterans and their families, fighting for an effective system of defense, building community pride in our national identity and giving young people a foundation for future success.

The Legion's founders had no idea how the century would unfold after their wartime service. No one at the time could have imagined that nuclear-powered aircraft carriers the size of cities would prowling the seas in the decades ahead. Jet aircraft, atomic bombs, night-vision goggles and aerial drones were pulp-fiction fantasies, as were television, satellites and the Internet. Future developments were unknowable then, as they are today at the cusp of a second American Legion century.

Yet the central elements of the founding vision – veterans, defense, patriotism and youth – continue to prove essential to national strength. Such was the genius that gave America the GI Bill, VA health care, a flag code, modern reserve forces and youth programs that promote justice, freedom, democracy, discipline and sportsmanship.

Team 100 is my theme because it's our centennial year. But it is not a flashy slogan meant to come and go after membership target dates are hit. Team 100 is a concept to draw on our timeless principles, reload and fire them into a second century of service to community, state and nation. They apply today, as much as ever.

Regardless if a combat veteran came home blinded from mustard gas in France or brain-injured by an IED in Afghanistan, The American Legion is needed to step in and fight on his or her behalf, provide comfort and assistance in the transition to a new and changed life. If not the Legion, who else can be nearly as effective?

Our nation is strongest when the military is properly trained, resourced and respected. The American Legion has worked tirelessly to elevate the honorable nature of military service, and argued to build a defense system that can just as capably rescue tsunami victims in Japan as it can stop terrorists in Iraq. Who can call for military strength with more integrity than those of us who have worn the uniform?

Young people succeed when mentors help them become productive citizens, contributors and leaders. This belief has produced tens of thousands of public servants, from homeless-shelter volunteers to top elected officials. If not us, who provides American Legion youth programs of the future?

The pride and indivisibility represented by the colors of our country, a flag that had unclear and largely unfollowed rules of respect prior to The American Legion, is a lesson we, as veterans, are uniquely qualified to deliver. If not us, who stands for our flag and all it means?

And in times of natural disaster, we who know the value of calm teamwork in emergencies are well suited to advance recovery.

Team 100 is not an end. It's a new beginning that must be guided and populated by others like us, veterans of a new generation, as we all once were, who believe in the importance of a strong America.




National Commander  
Brett P. Reistad

## MEMORANDA

### TEAM 100 PINS

To receive a Membership Excellence: Team 100 pin from National Commander Brett P. Reistad, all you need to do is recruit three new members into The American Legion. For details and a form to send in, visit [legion.org/commander/pin](http://legion.org/commander/pin) online or email [membership@legion.org](mailto:membership@legion.org).



### 100 GOOD REASONS

The American Legion wants to know your reasons. Why join? Why renew? Adam in Pennsylvania writes, "I decided it was time to get back to being a selfless-service person like I used to be while I was in the U.S. Army." Paula in California says it's her mission "to prove that women provide a valuable service in any military or any Legion position they aspire to." Email your reasons for joining and renewing to [dispatch@legion.org](mailto:dispatch@legion.org). From submissions, "100 Good Reasons to be in the Legion" will be published.

### #TEAM100

Don't forget that if you are posting a great story, activity or event that connects legacy and vision, use the hashtag **#Team100**.



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## MATT JABAUT

On Maine's state flag, underneath the North Star, is the word *dirigo*, Latin for "I lead." Not only is it the state's motto, but it fits Matt Jabaut, a post-9/11 veteran who's taking on leadership roles at the post and department levels.

Jabaut credits his mentors, who helped him successfully transition from the Army to college, then the civilian workforce. "I got hooked on giving back, feeling the camaraderie, serving a higher purpose, and helping other people who weren't as successful in their transition," he says.

While commander of Post 202 in Topsham for three years, Jabaut connected members with their interests or talents – Boys State for one, legislative for another. He understands that his peers have family and work obligations, but sometimes it's about helping a person find his or her niche. "You find what they're passionate about, and they're willing to give up their time to do a program."

Jabaut also runs Maine's unique three-part Legion College. "The goal is to develop the next generation of leaders at the post, district and department levels. The more people see that, the more they want to be involved and learn the history we are so proud of."

That century of service inspires Jabaut.

"Our nation continues to make veterans, and we need to be there for them. The legacy, history, infrastructure and influence of the Legion has taken 100 years to build. No one else has that."

– Henry Howard

**BRANCH OF SERVICE** Army (1997-1999, 2001-2005)

**RANK** Sergeant

**MILITARY JOB** Combat medic

**AMERICAN LEGION POST** Corey Edwin Garver Post 202, Topsham, Maine

**YEARS IN THE LEGION** 5

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- National Legion College graduate (2015)
- Department first vice commander (2018-present)
- Department Legion College dean (2017-present)
- Department judge advocate (2016-2017)
- Department chaplain (2015-2016)
- Post commander (2016-2018)

*"The American Legion is purpose-driven. It serves and provides the things we, as veterans, want as we transition out of our service."*



Watch an interview of Matt Jabaut online:

[www.legion.org/magazine](http://www.legion.org/magazine)

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# Renewable energy through carbon tax



## SUPPORT

**Rep. Raúl Grijalva, D-Ariz.**

■ Grijalva is ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee.

Devastating hurricanes, wildfires and heat waves are evidence of the very real threat climate change poses. Yet Washington refuses to take action, and Trump advisers like former EPA administrator Scott Pruitt have rolled back environmental and public health protections to profit the fossil-fuel industry.

Despite these setbacks, Americans from all walks of life – including veterans and servicemembers – remain dedicated to holding polluters responsible for their actions, protecting the environment for future generations and revitalizing our economy with green jobs. The Pentagon says climate change aggravates “poverty, social tensions, environmental degradation, ineffectual leadership and weak political institutions that threaten stability in a number of countries.”

Congress has a realistic plan to transition the United States to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050 and provide millions of green energy jobs. The 100 by '50 Act ends taxpayer handouts to oil and gas companies, and phases out the use of dirty fossil fuels, partly through a carbon fee and transparent emissions trading program. But this plan is not a one-size-fits-all approach. To truly address the complex problems of climate change, numerous actions need to be taken in tandem.

Under the bill, veterans arriving from combat zones could be trained for high-paying green jobs, and veteran-owned businesses are eligible for grants to implement the transition to renewable energy. Those putting their lives on the line for our country should have the guarantee of a civilian job when they return, and the 100 by '50 Act will help us fulfill this promise. It's time for Congress to revolutionize our energy, and prioritize the health and well-being of our communities and our planet.



## OPPOSE

**Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La.**

■ Cassidy is a member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Making energy more expensive through increased regulations or a carbon tax is seen as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In reality, these actions can actually increase global emissions by encouraging manufacturing and jobs to move to countries that lead in emissions.

In 2004, the European Union implemented a carbon tax and trade program, and the United States began to directly and indirectly regulate carbon emissions.

This raised the cost of

energy for utilities and manufacturing facilities. Companies began moving manufacturing to China, where energy and labor were cheaper and environmental regulations much more lax.

From 2004 to 2013, China's share of global manufacturing increased from 8 percent to 24 percent. At the same time, its emissions increased by 5.2 billion metric tons. China also enjoyed unprecedented economic growth, while U.S. and European Union economic growth slowed.

Canada's recent experience with a carbon tax offers further evidence. Foreign direct investment in Canada decreased almost 56 percent in 2017 compared to 2013. Presumably, this is why Prime Minister Justin Trudeau plans to reduce the carbon tax on industry. If companies don't invest, workers lose their jobs or never find them.

Fortunately, there's a way to lower emissions and create jobs. Last year, the United States led the world in decreasing greenhouse gas emissions by investing in producing low-emitting natural gas. The result was a \$260 billion increase in foreign direct investment, even as emissions are lower than they were in 2005. Not coincidentally, the U.S. job market is strong. We're on the right track. Let's not ruin it.

## THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

*A congressional plan to transition away from fossil fuels to 100 percent clean and renewable energy is based on a carbon tax. Supporters argue the plan is necessary for a clean environment. Critics say such a tax is counterproductive.*

## CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

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## Question time

Doctors know a lot, but they don't know everything about you or what's best for you, the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) reminds us.

Asking your physician questions can give your health-care team important information about you, including your biggest health-care concerns. Here are some questions AHRQ encourages patients to ask to improve their care:

- What is the test for?
- How many times have you done this procedure?
- When will I get the results?
- Why do I need this treatment?
- Are there any alternatives?
- What are the possible complications?
- Which hospital is best for my needs?
- How do you spell the name of that drug?
- Are there any side effects?
- Will this medicine interact with medicines I'm already taking?

AHRQ has an online "question builder" for patients to develop a tailored list of questions before they have specific kinds of appointments.

[www.ahrq.gov/patients-consumers/question-builder.html](http://www.ahrq.gov/patients-consumers/question-builder.html)



Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

## TEAM EFFORT

*Work with your entire health-care team on a diabetes care plan.*



Media Bakery

If you have diabetes, talk with your health-care provider about your treatment. Your provider and VA health-care team can help tailor a treatment plan to get you to a healthy blood-sugar range safely and effectively. This will also help you avoid low blood sugar (hypoglycemia), a potentially serious problem. Your team will help you recognize the symptoms of low blood sugar and treat it quickly.

VA and DoD guidelines encourage patients to partner with their entire health-care teams on all aspects of their diabetes care plans. You can help by planning ahead for your visit, telling the team about your needs and preferences, and working with them to make decisions about your care. State your questions and concerns at the start of your visit, so they can be sure to cover those topics.

Here's an example of how a veteran worked with his VA team

to better manage his diabetes and avoid low blood sugar:

Bob is a 75-year-old Navy veteran who has diabetes and high cholesterol (also known as hyperlipidemia). He planned ahead and came to his checkup ready to discuss the medications he was using.

Bob had an A1C (average blood glucose level over the past three months) of 6.9 percent, but his age and medications put him at high risk for having low blood sugar (glucose). Bob's nurse asked if he'd had hypoglycemia and explained that symptoms can include fast heartbeat, sweating, headache, hunger and weakness. He recalled having a blood sugar below 70 mg/dL twice recently; once, after having a salad for lunch and working in the garden, his blood sugar was 44 mg/dL. This reading was dangerously low and put him at risk for passing out or even a seizure.

See **DIABETES** on page 16



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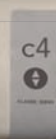
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## Stay healthy during wintertime

Prevention magazine offers some tips for staying physically, mentally and emotionally healthy during the winter months:

- **Raise your vitamin D levels naturally.** Losing just 5 percent of your body weight will cause your vitamin D blood levels to shoot up. Other ways to increase vitamin D naturally include lowering your cholesterol, exercising, and eating fatty fish such as wild salmon.
- **Keep using sunscreen.** Two types of ultraviolet light from the sun damage your skin: ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB). The big difference? UVB rays are “blocked by window glass from the house and car and are less intense in the winter months.” UVA light, though, passes through window glass and has the same strength all year, “so keep up your sunscreen routine.”
- **Get a flu shot.** If you don’t want to do it for your own health, do it for your neighbor’s. “When 36,000 people in the United States die from complications of the flu and 200,000 are hospitalized (each year), doctors should be telling people to get a flu shot because it’s a random act of kindness.” By getting a flu shot, you increase your odds of staying healthy, and help protect your parents, kids and others with whom you come in contact.
- **Take a class.** The cold and darkness of winter can take a toll on a person’s mental health. One antidote is to take a class. It can be something for the mind, like book clubs or open college courses; something for the body, like yoga or Pilates; or something to keep the creative juices flowing, like a cooking, tech or DIY class.
- **Eat more plants.** Flaxseeds, chia seeds and walnuts are especially good sources of alpha-linolenic acid, which is an important omega-3 fatty acid. New research suggests omega-3s have anti-inflammatory effects, protect the skin and may even have a positive effect on mental health.

## DIABETES *continued from page 14*

Additionally, Bob used insulin regularly when his blood sugar was not elevated, and used too much when it was needed. This made it harder for him to safely manage his diabetes and increased his risk of low blood sugar.

Bob talked with his provider about his health-care preferences and goals. Together, they found a way to meet his health needs that included more regulated use of insulin. Bob’s provider also referred him to diabetes classes, a registered dietitian and a pharmacist for help managing his medications.

After working with his health-care team for several months, Bob is now meeting his needs and goals, and he’s successfully controlling his A1C. He and his team are happy he hasn’t had any more low blood sugar readings.


Health-care providers are ready to work with patients toward the goal of long, healthy lives. Help them help you by being prepared to ask questions and follow their advice.

## Resources

The VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) on Management of Diabetes Mellitus in Primary Care ([www.healthquality.va.gov/guidelines/CD/diabetes](http://www.healthquality.va.gov/guidelines/CD/diabetes)) provides specific information for patients and families, as well as for a health-care team.

VA’s My HealtheVet Veterans Health Library ([www.veteranshealthlibrary.org](http://www.veteranshealthlibrary.org)) is a comprehensive source of VA-approved health information on topics such as diabetes. Veterans and their caregivers can get more information about managing low blood sugar in the Diabetes section, under Diseases & Conditions.

For more on getting involved in your VA health care, visit the VHA National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention website:

 [www.prevention.va.gov/healthy\\_living/be\\_involved\\_in\\_your\\_health\\_care.asp](http://www.prevention.va.gov/healthy_living/be_involved_in_your_health_care.asp)





WITH STAGE 3 LUNG CANCER

# I'M IN WITH IMFINZI

TO CONTINUE FIGHTING MY CANCER AFTER CRT

**FIRST & ONLY TREATMENT APPROVED**  
for people with unresectable Stage 3 non-small cell  
lung cancer (NSCLC) whose disease has not progressed  
following concurrent chemoradiation therapy (CRT).

## IMFINZI SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED THE CHANCE OF LUNG CANCER SPREADING

IMFINZI may not work for everyone.

IMFINZI is an immunotherapy. People receiving IMFINZI had a 48% lower chance of lung cancer growing or spreading than those receiving placebo (no medicine). It was also proven to give people 3x more time without their cancer spreading compared with placebo.\* Before IMFINZI, the last 10 years showed only limited advancements to the current standard of care for unresectable Stage 3 NSCLC.

\*In a clinical trial, the median time tumors did not grow or spread was 16.8 months for the 476 patients receiving IMFINZI compared with 5.6 months for the 237 patients receiving placebo. Median is the middle number in a group of numbers arranged from lowest to highest. Individual results may vary.

ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT IMFINZI. VISIT [IMFINZI.COM](http://IMFINZI.COM)

IMFINZI was studied in 713 patients with unresectable Stage 3 NSCLC who completed at least 2 cycles of chemotherapy that contained platinum given at the same time (concurrent) as radiation before starting the trial. Patients in the study had good performance status (WHO 0 or 1). IMFINZI was tested against placebo (no medication).

The main goal of the trial was to measure the length of time people remained progression free (without cancer growing or spreading) and overall survival. At the time of analysis, overall survival comparison was not yet available. This trial is still ongoing.

## WHO IS IMFINZI FOR?

IMFINZI® (durvalumab) is a prescription medicine used to treat a type of lung cancer called non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). IMFINZI may be used when your NSCLC has not spread outside your chest, cannot be removed by surgery, and has responded or stabilized with initial treatment with chemotherapy that contains platinum, given at the same time as radiation therapy.

It is not known if IMFINZI is safe and effective in children.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

**What is the most important information I should know about IMFINZI?**

IMFINZI is a medicine that may treat a type of lung cancer by working with your immune system.

IMFINZI can cause your immune system to attack normal organs and tissues and can affect the way they work. These problems can sometimes become serious or life-threatening and can lead to death.

**Call or see your healthcare provider right away if you develop any symptoms of the following problems or if these symptoms get worse:**

**Lung problems (pneumonitis).** Signs and symptoms may include new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, and chest pain.

**Liver problems (hepatitis).** Signs and symptoms may include yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes, severe nausea or vomiting, pain on the right side of your stomach area (abdomen), drowsiness, dark urine (tea colored), bleeding or bruising more easily than normal, and feeling less hungry than usual.

**Intestinal problems (colitis).** Signs and symptoms may include diarrhea or more bowel movements than usual; stools that are black, tarry, sticky, or have blood or mucus; and severe stomach-area (abdomen) pain or tenderness.

**Hormone gland problems (especially the thyroid, adrenals, pituitary, and pancreas).** Signs and symptoms that your hormone glands are not working properly may include headaches that will not go away or unusual headaches; extreme tiredness; weight gain or weight loss; dizziness or fainting; feeling more hungry or thirsty than usual; hair loss; feeling cold; constipation; your voice gets deeper; urinating more often than usual; nausea or vomiting; stomach-area (abdomen) pain; and changes in mood or behavior, such as decreased sex drive, irritability, or forgetfulness.

**Kidney problems, including nephritis and kidney failure.** Signs of kidney problems may include decrease in the amount of urine, blood in your urine, swelling of your ankles, and loss of appetite.

**Skin problems.** Signs may include rash, itching, and skin blistering.

**Problems in other organs.** Signs and symptoms may include neck stiffness; headache; confusion; fever; chest pain, shortness of breath, or irregular heartbeat (myocarditis); changes in mood or behavior; low red

blood cells (anemia); excessive bleeding or bruising; muscle weakness or muscle pain; blurry vision, double vision, or other vision problems; and eye pain or redness.

**Severe infections.** Signs and symptoms may include fever, cough, frequent urination, pain when urinating, and flu-like symptoms.

**Severe infusion reactions.** Signs and symptoms may include chills or shaking, itching or rash, flushing, shortness of breath or wheezing, dizziness, fever, feeling like passing out, back or neck pain, and facial swelling.

**Getting medical treatment right away may help keep these problems from becoming more serious.** Your healthcare provider will check you for these problems during your treatment with IMFINZI. Your healthcare provider may treat you with corticosteroid or hormone replacement medicines. Your healthcare provider may delay or completely stop treatment with IMFINZI if you have severe side effects.

**Before you receive IMFINZI, tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you have immune system problems such as Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, or lupus; have had an organ transplant; have lung or breathing problems; have liver problems; or are being treated for an infection.**

If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, tell your healthcare provider. IMFINZI can harm your unborn baby. If you are able to become pregnant, you should use an effective method of birth control during your treatment and for at least 3 months after the last dose of IMFINZI. Talk to your healthcare provider about which birth control methods to use. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you become pregnant during treatment with IMFINZI.

If you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed, tell your healthcare provider. It is not known if IMFINZI passes into breast milk. Do not breastfeed during treatment with IMFINZI and for at least 3 months after the last dose of IMFINZI.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.** This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

**What are the possible side effects of IMFINZI?**

**IMFINZI can cause serious side effects (see earlier).**

**The most common side effects** in people with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) include cough, feeling tired, inflammation in the lungs (pneumonitis), upper respiratory tract infections, shortness of breath, and rash.

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. These are not all the possible side effects of IMFINZI. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for more information.

**Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects.**

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.FDA.gov/medwatch](http://www.FDA.gov/medwatch) or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

Please see Brief Summary of complete Prescribing Information on the following page.

If you cannot afford your medications, AstraZeneca may be able to help. Visit [AstraZeneca-us.com](http://AstraZeneca-us.com) to find out how.

 **IMFINZI®**  
durvalumab  
Injection for Intravenous Use 50 mg/mL



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# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT IMFINZI® (im-FIN-zee) (durvalumab) INJECTION



## WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IMFINZI?

IMFINZI is a medicine that may treat a type of lung cancer by working with your immune system.

IMFINZI can cause your immune system to attack normal organs and tissues and can affect the way they work. These problems can sometimes become serious or life-threatening and can lead to death.

**Call or see your healthcare provider right away if you develop any symptoms of the following problems or these symptoms get worse:**

**Lung problems (pneumonitis).** Signs and symptoms of pneumonitis may include:

- new or worsening cough
- shortness of breath
- chest pain

**Liver problems (hepatitis).** Signs and symptoms of hepatitis may include:

- yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes
- severe nausea or vomiting
- pain on the right side of your stomach area (abdomen)
- drowsiness
- dark urine (tea colored)
- bleeding or bruising more easily than normal
- feeling less hungry than usual

**Intestinal problems (colitis).** Signs and symptoms of colitis may include:

- diarrhea or more bowel movements than usual
- stools that are black, tarry, sticky, or have blood or mucus
- severe stomach area (abdomen) pain or tenderness

**Hormone gland problems (especially the thyroid, adrenals, pituitary and pancreas).**

Signs and symptoms that your hormone glands are not working properly may include:

- headaches that will not go away or unusual headaches
- extreme tiredness
- weight gain or weight loss
- dizziness or fainting
- feeling more hungry or thirsty than usual
- hair loss
- changes in mood or behavior, such as decreased sex drive, irritability, or forgetfulness
- feeling cold
- constipation
- your voice gets deeper
- urinating more often than usual
- nausea or vomiting
- stomach area (abdomen) pain

**Kidney problems, including nephritis and kidney failure.** Signs of kidney problems may include:

- decrease in the amount of urine
- blood in your urine
- swelling of your ankles
- loss of appetite

**Skin problems.** Signs of these problems may include:

- rash
- itching
- skin blistering

(continued)

**Problems in other organs.** Signs and symptoms may include:

- neck stiffness
- headache
- confusion
- fever
- chest pain, shortness of breath, or irregular heartbeat (myocarditis)
- changes in mood or behavior
- low red blood cells (anemia)
- excessive bleeding or bruising
- muscle weakness or muscle pain
- blurry vision, double vision, or other vision problems
- eye pain or redness

**Severe infections.** Signs and symptoms may include:

- fever
- cough
- frequent urination
- pain when urinating
- flu-like symptoms

**Severe infusion reactions.** Signs and symptoms of severe infusion reactions may include:

- chills or shaking
- itching or rash
- flushing
- shortness of breath or wheezing
- dizziness
- fever
- feel like passing out
- back or neck pain
- facial swelling

**Getting medical treatment right away may help keep these problems from becoming more serious.**

Your healthcare provider will check you for these problems during your treatment with IMFINZI. Your healthcare provider may treat you with corticosteroid or hormone replacement medicines. Your healthcare provider may delay or completely stop treatment with IMFINZI, if you have severe side effects.

## WHAT IS IMFINZI?

IMFINZI is a prescription medicine used to treat:

- a type of lung cancer called non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). IMFINZI may be used when your NSCLC:
  - has not spread outside your chest
  - cannot be removed by surgery, **and**
  - has responded or stabilized with initial treatment with chemotherapy that contains platinum, given at the same time as radiation therapy.

It is not known if IMFINZI is safe and effective in children.

**Before you receive IMFINZI, tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:**

- have immune system problems such as Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, or lupus
- have had an organ transplant
- have lung or breathing problems
- have liver problems
- are being treated for an infection
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. IMFINZI can harm your unborn baby. If you are able to become pregnant, you should use an

(continued)

effective method of birth control during your treatment and for at least 3 months after the last dose of IMFINZI. Talk to your healthcare provider about birth control methods that you can use during this time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you become pregnant during treatment with IMFINZI.

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if IMFINZI passes into your breast milk. Do not breastfeed during treatment and for at least 3 months after the last dose of IMFINZI.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

## HOW WILL I RECEIVE IMFINZI?

- Your healthcare provider will give you IMFINZI into your vein through an intravenous (IV) line over 60 minutes.
- IMFINZI is usually given every 2 weeks.
- Your healthcare provider will decide how many treatments you need.
- Your healthcare provider will test your blood to check you for certain side effects.
- If you miss any appointments, call your healthcare provider as soon as possible to reschedule your appointment.

## WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF IMFINZI?

**IMFINZI CAN CAUSE SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, INCLUDING:**

**SEE "WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IMFINZI?"**

The most common side effects of IMFINZI in people with NSCLC include:

- cough
- feeling tired
- inflammation in the lungs (pneumonitis)
- upper respiratory tract infections
- shortness of breath
- rash

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of IMFINZI. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for more information. Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF IMFINZI.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. If you would like more information about IMFINZI, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider for information about IMFINZI that is written for health professionals.



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# 5 VETERANS MEMORIALS TO VISIT

*See these unique tributes to those who served.*

BY LYN METTLER

While the country has plenty of famous veterans memorials – from Washington, D.C., to Hawaii – there are many overlooked gems worth a visit for their architecture, setting or the group of veterans they honor. Here are five to add to your list:

**National D-Day Memorial, Bedford, Va.** This 88-acre memorial at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains honors Americans who participated in the Normandy invasion. Proportionally, Bedford suffered the nation's greatest D-Day losses; 19 of the town's 34 Virginia National Guard soldiers were killed on the first day of the campaign and four more died later. The memorial includes the names of 4,413 Allied servicemembers killed – the most complete list of its kind in the world – as well as an English garden, a 44-foot-tall arch inscribed "Overlord," and a reflecting pool.

**Mount Soledad National Veterans Memorial, San Diego** With fantastic 360-degree views of San Diego and the Pacific Coast, the Mount Soledad memorial honors living and deceased veterans. More than 3,500 veterans' names – including presidents, generals and Medal of Honor recipients – are etched on black granite plaques. Five new walls will include the names of another 2,400 veterans. Atop Soledad is a 27-foot cross visible throughout the city.



National Veterans Art Museum, Chicago Photo courtesy National Veterans Art Museum

**Vietnam Veterans Plaza, New York City** Head to 55 Water St. in downtown Manhattan to see New York City's official Vietnam War veterans memorial, which honors the quarter of a million New Yorkers who served. The memorial has a reflecting fountain, memorial wall and a Walk of Honor listing the 1,741 New Yorkers killed. The plaza was the first public space to be dedicated and reopened after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

**Anthem Veterans Memorial, Anthem, Ariz.**

This unique memorial has five pillars, each representing a branch of the U.S. military. At 11:11 a.m. each Veterans Day, sunlight passes through elliptical openings in each pillar, creating a spotlight on a glass mosaic of the Great Seal of the United States. Red pavers, white pillars and blue sky together represent the U.S. flag.

**National Veterans Art Museum, Chicago** This museum curates and displays artwork inspired by combat, with a focus on the Vietnam War and art created by veterans. The collection has more than 2,500 works, including paintings, sculpture, poetry and music. The museum says it offers "unique insight into the psyche of combat veterans and the consequential impact war leaves on its survivors."

*Lyn Mettler is a freelance travel writer who blogs at GotoTravelGal.com.*



Allstate released the results of its [America's Best Drivers Report](#) in August. Brownsville, Texas, Kansas City, Kan., and Boise, Idaho, ranked as the cities in which it's safest to drive. Miami was noted as the most improved safe driving city, while Spokane, Wash., had the biggest drop in safe driving.

If you'll be flying [United](#) or [JetBlue](#) soon, know that both airlines recently raised the price of your first checked bag from \$25 to \$30. You can often avoid checked-baggage fees by holding an airline-branded credit card.

# Report details Choice program frustrations

BY TOM PHILPOTT

Soon after VA launched the controversial Veterans Choice program in late 2014, officials saw an administrative nightmare taking shape.

Congress created Choice as a flash solution to a wait-time scandal uncovered across portions of the VA health-care system. Many more veterans were waiting longer for appointments than facility records indicated. Congress gave VA 90 days to implement reforms to improve choice for patients.

VA quickly had to expand nascent networks of civilian health-care providers formed over the previous year to support another initiative, the Patient-Centered Community Care (PC3) program. It began referring patients to these networks if veterans needing care 1) resided more than 40 miles from a VA health-care facility, or 2) faced waits for VA care longer than 30 days.

VA soon realized it didn't have claim-processing systems to handle the workload. The number of Choice claims unpaid after 30 days peaked at almost 176,000 by July 2016. The backlog helps explain why complaints from providers and veterans began to engulf the program.

Another reason was that Choice didn't work as advertised. Veterans weren't given a card that granted them unfettered access to private-sector providers. Providers had to be in network, access was controlled by contractors and VA, and claim payments were slow and often in error.

To address the backlog, VA launched a "bulk payment" claims process for Choice, which led to other problems, the VA Office of Inspector General (IG) explained in a September report. Claims processed in bulk over a 12-month period ending in March 2017 led to more than \$101 million in duplicative or erroneous payments to the two contractors tasked with administering Choice provider networks: Health Net Federal Services and TriWest Healthcare Alliance.

These "third-party administrators," as VA calls them, not only manage networks of community-care providers that veterans rely on to ensure timely or convenient health care, but handle the processing and payment of claims to providers.

Health Net and TriWest initially submitted claims from providers to local VA medical centers or regions, and awaited payment to pass along. Later the contractors began paying the claims and billing the VA Office of Community Care. Claims now are received electronically and processed by VA's Financial Services Center in Austin, Texas.

From November 2014 through September 2016,

VA used a fee-basis system to pay Choice claims. That system largely was not automated, the IG said. Non-VA care providers couldn't track their claims. The result: slow payments and errors, including lost and misrouted claims. Many providers awaiting payment refiled claims, which resulted in duplicate billing. Half the 2 million provider claims filed during this period took VA longer than 30 days to pay.

Starting in March 2016, VA, TriWest and Health Net modified PC3/Choice contracts to allow payments on claims through a centralized process and on an aggregated basis with minimal review. Claims were processed faster and the backlog decreased, but the problem of overpayments worsened, auditors found.

The VA Office of Community Care, though it stopped reviewing each individual claim, "failed to implement effective internal controls to detect the submission of duplicate claims" by third-party administrators and prevent other payment errors, the IG found. Most are duplicative payments, but others involve failing to use appropriate Medicare or contract-adjusted rates, failing to adjust payments to reflect what other health insurance plans are responsible for paying, or making reimbursements to contractors for amounts higher than paid to providers.

The IG recommended that VA's undersecretary for health install processes to prevent payment errors and work with government authorities to ensure VA is reimbursed for overpayments. VA officials told the IG they concur with the findings and recommendations.

*Tom Philpott has been covering military personnel and veterans issues for more than 40 years.*







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TO STRENGTHEN A NATION / THE AMERICAN LEGION STORY

### PART 3



# A FORCE IS BORN

*The American Legion took the nation by storm in 1919, growing from zero to 685,000 in just eight months.*

BY MARK SEAVEY

Charles H. Brent, an Episcopal bishop and senior chaplain of the American Expeditionary Forces, was concerned. The Great War had just ended, and thousands of homesick troops remained in Europe awaiting orders to rotate home. The food was barely edible. Recreation was scarce. The troops were restless, going AWOL and stirring up trouble. Brent came up with an idea and took it to Gen. John Pershing, allied commander of the AEF, who permitted the chaplain to start Comrades in Service, a fellowship that would work to improve plummeting morale.

It never really took off.

Pershing ordered 20 officers to meet in Paris to discuss ways to stabilize behavior among Americans stranded in postwar France. At a dinner after the meeting, at the behest of Lt. Col.

Theodore Roosevelt Jr., a plan emerged that Roosevelt had long harbored: a new type of veterans organization.

All 20 officers agreed in principle. They also agreed that there should be two gatherings – one in Paris and the other stateside – to hash out the aims of the organization, a name for it, and how to get enough members to make it viable. To make it work, they understood that enlisted personnel needed to join, too. Enlisted personnel, however, rarely had the luxury of traveling wherever they wished, even for the founding of a veterans organization, an idea that initially raised skepticism from command. Lt. Col. Eric Fisher Wood, however, wired Roosevelt on March 7, 1919, a simple statement: “Am inviting enlisted men.”

Some had orders to attend the March 15-17 Paris Caucus. Others did not. Some were smuggled in, and others showed up dressed as couriers with pouches containing nothing but waste paper. Some enlisted staff of *Stars and Stripes* (notably Pvt. Harold Ross, later the editor of *The American Legion Magazine* and founder of *The New Yorker*) were asked to at least show up long enough to register.

Fearing that an organization launched by the son of a Republican former president might appear too closely aligned with a political party, Bennett Clark, son of the Democratic Speaker of the House, was elected chairman. A voting plan was quickly identified, to be allocated by divisions or other units, and a motion was passed to declare that any use of

## THE PARIS CAUCUS

**WHEN:** March 15-17, 1919

**WHERE:** Paris Officers Club, 4 Rue Gabriel, and Cirque de Paris

**PURPOSE:** To plan a new association of Great War veterans to perpetuate the principles of democracy for which they had fought, promote the duties and obligations of responsible U.S. citizenship, preserve the memories and incidents of American participation in the war, and “cement ties of comradeship formed in service.”

**COMMITTEES:** Four 15-member committees are established: Permanent

Organization, Constitution, Name and Convention.

The committee tasked with naming the new organization reports 12 nominations and chooses “The American Legion,” but only as a temporary name.

On the evening after the final session of the Paris Caucus, the first American Legion Executive Committee is assembled, chaired by Milton J. Foreman of Chicago, with George A. White of Oregon as secretary. This is the forerunner to the Legion’s National Executive Committee.

*“They were to promote an organization which would not take form until the following November. They had no funds whatever, no offices, no staff, no literature. They had been named the temporary executives of a great idea.”*

“A History of The American Legion,”  
Richard Seelye Jones (1946)

military rank would be out of order. There would be no privates, no colonels, no generals – only delegates. And those delegates would be placed on one of the four committees that would decide the permanent organization, constitution and bylaws, name and location of the next meeting.

By the morning of March 16, the Constitution Committee, chaired by Lt. Col. G. Edward Buxton, would present its report, which was quickly adopted. “We, the members of the Military and Naval Service of the United States of America in the great war, desiring to perpetuate the principles of Justice, Freedom, and Democracy for which we have fought, to inculcate the duty and obligation to the citizen to the State; to preserve the history and incidents of our participation in the war; and to cement the ties of comradeship formed in service, do propose to found and establish an association for the furtherance of the foregoing purposes.”

Unlike Comrades in Service, which had failed to fire up the troops, this new organization was doing that from its first moments. Even Brent, an early skeptic, came forth to offer the seconding speech. “I will tell you frankly that I was fearful ... lest you should create a great mechanism without adequate purposes,” he said. “I see in the report of your committee the ideals not only of the Army but of the nation adequately expressed ... I will give you my most hearty support.”

Many names were suggested and discarded until “Veterans of the Great War” and “Legion of the Great War” were selected as the final two.

Alexander Woolcott, a portly medical corps sergeant, objected to the use of the word “Legion” because he found it “savoring slightly of the silk stocking.”

An anonymous delegate from the 1st Division who had fought alongside the French Foreign Legion rejoined that “if the fat medico thinks those babies are sissies, he is just nuts.”

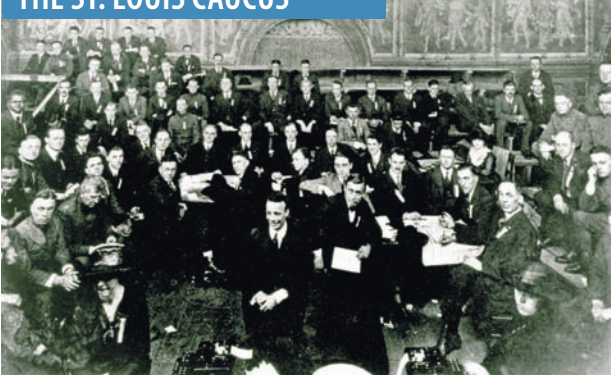
In the end, a motion from Maurice K. Gordon of Kentucky was adopted. “The American Legion” was named, at least temporarily.

The committee to decide the location of the next meeting, however, devolved so much it was disbanded. According to Richard Seelye Jones’ “A History of The American Legion,” before St. Louis was chosen for the stateside caucus, “Home-town pride burst forth with vigor akin to violence.”

It was also important that the next meeting include those who, “through no fault of their own, had been denied the privilege of making history on a European battlefield,” historian George Wheat noted in his 1919 “The Story of the American Legion.”

With less than two months until the May 8-10 St. Louis Caucus, much had to be done, the bulk by Roosevelt and a coterie of individuals working out of a borrowed office in New York City with staff provided by the Military Training Camps Association (MTCA).

## THE ST. LOUIS CAUCUS



**WHEN:** May 8-10, 1919

**WHERE:** The Shubert-Jefferson Theatre, St. Louis

**WHAT:** The American Legion’s constitution is drafted, the name is made permanent, priorities of the Paris Caucus are clarified and confirmed, and official post charters are poised for acceptance with dues set at 25 cents per year. Before declining

*“To the extent that I make a contribution to causes which have continuity, then I gain something which in itself has immortality.”*

**Earl B. Dickerson**, Illinois, founder and life member of Lt. George Giles American Legion Post 87 in Chicago, one of 25 black veterans at the 1919 St. Louis Caucus

nominations to lead the new organization but serving as temporary chairman, Theodore Roosevelt Jr. calls the session to order with a gavel made from the steamship *Roosevelt’s* rudder; the vessel had carried Adm. Robert Edwin Peary during his explorations of the North Pole. Roosevelt rejects chants of “We want Teddy!” to serve as first national leader of the organization. Former Dallas Mayor Henry D. Lindsley is named chairman, and plans are advanced to elect a commander at the first national convention, to be conducted in Minneapolis.





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TO STRENGTHEN A NATION / THE AMERICAN LEGION STORY

Roosevelt and others made a concerted effort to reach out to Navy and Marine Corps veterans who had been unable to attend the Paris Caucus. Additionally, geographic diversity was needed, so it was decided to mold an executive committee much like the U.S. Senate, with delegates from each state. Drawing heavily upon MTCA alumni, Roosevelt and Clark identified state leaders and gave them the responsibility of finding delegates who could attend the St. Louis Caucus.

The caucus opened on the afternoon of May 8 at the Shubert-Jefferson Theater. More than 1,100 delegates from across the country attended. After Roosevelt repeatedly declined chairmanship, that responsibility fell to former Dallas Mayor Henry D. Lindsley, a Democrat who had served as a colonel in France. Among the vice chairmen were a private, an Army sergeant, a Navy sailor and a Marine. Other existing veterans organizations were also invited to attend and given one vote each, with the exception of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Council, which was denounced as "Bolshevik and communist" because the group was aligned with the Industrial Workers of the World – although the IWW's representative, S.H. Curtain of Seattle, was allowed to join as an individual.

Chaos ensued when Chicago was proposed as the site of the first national convention. "John F.J. Herbert of Massachusetts got the floor and opened a lively debate by declaring that the mayor of Chicago, William Hale 'Big Bill' Thompson, was lacking in real Americanism," Jones wrote. "Thompson had been widely considered if not pro-German certainly very much anti-British ... Herbert gave him an oratorical tongue-lashing and told the Legion caucus that if Chicago wanted a Legion convention it should get a new mayor." After much debate, Minneapolis was chosen.

To Thomas Miller of Delaware and Luke Lea of Tennessee went the task of drafting and getting passed a congressional charter – a first for a veterans service organization. Miller was a former Republican congressman who enlisted in the infantry as a private after losing re-election, and was cited by Pershing for "especially meritorious and conspicuous service." Lea had been a senator for six years before his commission as a colonel of artillery and being sent to France. Introduced in the House and Senate on June 27, the charter became law Sept. 16.

Under editor George A. White, a Paris founder, *The American Legion Weekly* began a series of articles aimed at the Federal

Board for Vocational Education for "shameful mismanagement of the affairs of our afflicted comrades," author Marquis James wrote. Financial concerns were entrusted to John W. Prentiss, Finance Committee chairman, who raised \$257,000 from 213 Legionnaires from 13 states. The Legion later repaid the loans at 6 percent interest.

Former Army officer Franklin D'Olier of Pennsylvania, who would serve as the first national commander, led the State Organization Division, which funded national speaking tours of luminaries like Roosevelt and Herbert. By Oct. 1, the Legion had grown to 5,670 posts. It was in every state, Alaska and Hawaii (then territories), Cuba, Panama and Mexico. By the time of the convention, membership stood at more than 685,000.

"There is no power that can destroy The American Legion except The American Legion itself," Lindsley said. It "has the confidence and support of the American public. The Legion ... will open its convention in Minneapolis with solemn purpose. It will lightly pass on no big thing. It will be ruffled by no chance wind. It knows it has a task to do and will perform it. With faith in God and country, with faith in itself, The American Legion will march on for the years to come."

## AMERICAN LEGION DAY

President Woodrow Wilson signs The American Legion's federal charter on Sept. 16, 1919, a date later recognized as "American Legion Day." The as-yet unincorporated organization is thus permitted to adopt a constitution and bylaws, elect officers "and do all other things necessary" as outlined in U.S. Code, Title 36, Chapters 41-50.

Under Chapter 43, "Purposes of corporation," much of the language is borrowed from the original draft "Preamble to The American Legion Constitution," with some notable deviations, including "to promote peace and good will among the peoples of the United States and all the nations of the earth" and "to cement the ties of love

and comradeship born of service." The federal charter outlines powers and authority, membership criteria, naming rights, exclusivity to manufacture and use the Legion emblem, and a requirement that "the organization shall be nonpolitical and ... not promote the candidacy of any person seeking public office."



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55-59	\$15.28	\$11.50	\$24.79	\$18.50	\$48.58	\$36.00	\$119.96	\$88.50
60-64	\$18.50	\$13.75	\$30.17	\$22.25	\$59.33	\$43.50	\$146.83	\$107.25
65-69	\$22.08	\$17.05	\$36.13	\$27.75	\$71.25	\$54.50	\$176.63	\$134.75
70-74	\$29.53	\$22.30	\$48.54	\$36.50	\$96.08	\$72.00	\$238.71	\$178.50
75-79	\$38.65	\$30.70	\$63.75	\$50.50	\$126.50	\$100.00	\$314.75	\$248.50
80-85	\$51.55	\$43.45	\$85.25	\$71.75	\$169.50	\$142.50	\$422.25	\$354.75

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\*Age eligibility and benefit amounts may vary by state.

On Nov. 11, 1919, in Centralia, Wash., Legionnaires were under attack. As the local post's founding members marched in an Armistice Day parade, gunfire erupted. IWW members shot and killed four Legionnaires. To convention-goers in Minneapolis, Jones noted, the murders "stamped the proceedings with a feeling of seriousness. That the new Legion should so suddenly have become a target, not for words but for bullets, was cause for thought .... the firmness with which the Legion men in Centralia had met a crisis, had stood for law and order, brought to the gathering at Minneapolis an added dedication to high principles."

Minnesota Gov. J.A. Burnquist offered conventioners words of hopefulness in a complicated

nation and world. "In this day when old empires are falling, new nations are being born, and the fundamental principles of the American republic are being attacked, you advocate the upholding and defending of the U.S. Constitution."

A final directive came from D'Olier, the newly elected national commander, whose acceptance speech had four sentences: "My word is simply this. We came here to work. Let us keep working and not listen to speeches. I thank you."

Apportionment of delegate strength, the resolution process, the organization's unitary head in a national commander and powers vested in the National Executive Committee came from that first convention. So, too, was born the Legion's image as

non-sectarian and non-partisan. Any man or woman, regardless of rank, could effect change through resolutions and a determined effort to shepherd them through for local, state or national consideration.

As James noted, The American Legion went to Minneapolis "a pair of words and came away a living force ... composed of men and women whose qualifications for service to their country and their comrades were their records with the nation's fighting forces in the World War; a force aimed to express the ideals of citizenship of 5 million people; a force such as neither this nor any other country had ever seen." 🌿

*Mark Seavey is a writer and digital media specialist for The American Legion.*

## THE FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION



*"They will gather in Minneapolis tomorrow to launch the greatest organization of veterans in world history."*

*Minneapolis Tribune, Nov. 9, 1919*

**WHEN:** Nov. 10-12, 1919

**WHERE:** Convention Hall, between Marquette and Nicollet avenues, on 11th Street, now Peavey Plaza and Orchestra Hall; Radisson Hotel; a canteen at 523 Marquette Ave.; the Orpheum Theater; and other locations.

**WHAT:** With membership exceeding 684,000, The American Legion's first national convention draws thousands from across the nation. Some 15,000 march in a cold, snowy 1st National Convention Parade. Committees are defined, the constitution is made official, and Franklin D'Olier of Pennsylvania is elected first national commander.

**COMMITTEES:** The American Legion's mission is reflected in the structure of its first 19 convention committees, which are Credentials, Rules, Permanent Organization, Emblem, Eligibility,

Auxiliaries, Political Restriction, Finances and National Dues, Constitution and Organization, Legislation, Next Meeting Place, Permanent Headquarters, Post Activities and Memorials, Employment, War Risk Insurance, Beneficial Legislation, Military Policy, Anti-American Propaganda and Resolutions.

### RESOLUTIONS PASSED AND POSITIONS TAKEN:

Indianapolis selected as permanent national headquarters; a women's auxiliary authorized; Boy Scouts of America singled out for support; Americanism Commission approved; national dues set at \$1 per capita; improve veteran employment in civil service and military occupations; \$75 per month for veterans suffering with tuberculosis and \$50 per month for others disabled by service; a U.S. Air Service recommended as a separate branch of defense; Department of Justice called upon to stop organizations and ideologies in the United States that threaten democracy; American citizenship and language to be taught in all schools; establish American military cemeteries in Europe "as permanent memorials of America's unselfish service to humanity"; find the widows and children "of our deceased comrades ... extending to them such care and assistance as may be within their power"; and more.



# THE TET 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE PISTOL



©AHL, Inc.

It was January, 1968. Over Christmas, Bob Hope, Raquel Welch and other entertainers were in Vietnam performing for the Christmas holiday — and a group of lucky troops were able to see the show live. Back at home, Americans were able to see highlights of the shows on television in January, ever mindful of all those who were serving in Vietnam.

With the start of the New Year, American troops were preparing for another year in Vietnam. Many longed to return home, and they counted down the days before their expected date to return home. The days were long and tedious and filled with uncertainty and danger.

In this faraway country, a major Vietnamese holiday was also approaching: Tet, the Vietnamese New Year. The Tet holiday was the most celebrated time in Vietnam, and a time when the fighting in Vietnam usually ceased for a short period. Many South Vietnamese soldiers were granted leave and joined family and friends for this special celebration.

Meanwhile, the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong had been planning for months a surprise attack on South Vietnam. The Communist forces would unleash a wave of attacks on South Vietnam while the South Vietnamese were celebrating their lunar New Year. With little warning, shortly after midnight, the sounds of combat exploded in Saigon and other locations.

The assault had started. The Tet Offensive was well-organized and conducted countrywide, eventually including more than 100 towns and cities. The Tet Offensive was by far the largest military operation conducted up to that point in the war, and it proved to be a pivotal turning point in the war.

## HONORING ALL THOSE WHO SERVED

### The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Tet Offensive

In honor of the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tet Offensive, and in salute to all who served during the Vietnam War, America Remembers proudly announces the **Tet 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tribute Pistol**. For this historic Tribute, we selected a working Colt® Government Model® pistol in caliber .45 ACP, a classic military firearm, and a trusted sidearm during the Vietnam War. Only 1,000 Tributes will be issued in this exclusive edition. The artwork on the Tribute features banners and artwork highlighting important battles and scenes from the Tet Offensive. Craftsmen commissioned specifically for this project by America Remembers decorate each pistol in sparkling 24-karat gold and gleaming nickel, with blackened patinae highlights to accentuate the details of the artwork.

On the slide, you'll find six important battles of the Tet Offensive — Hue, Khe Sanh, Saigon, Da Nang, Quang Tri and Bien Hoa. Saigon was the capital of South Vietnam and the surprise attacks on Saigon during the first night included an attempt to overrun the US Embassy and to capture the National Radio Station.

A Marine Corps Combat Base was located at Khe Sanh. The NVA had built up significant forces around Khe Sanh, far outnumbering Americans and South Vietnamese forces. During Tet, the NVA subjected the base

to day and night bombardment, and cut off the overland supply route to the base. The base would remain under siege for more than two months.

Hue was a cultural center in South Vietnam. The fighting in Hue was intense, and lasted for four weeks. The Marines and South Vietnamese forces had to fight building to building, street by street, to reclaim the city. Much of the city was destroyed and losses on both sides were high.

Quang Tri City was in the north of Vietnam and an important government headquarters. It was an important target for the NVA. Bien Hoa and Da Nang were home to major military air bases for the United States. They were both attacked at the start of the Tet Offensive, but attacks were turned back by the allied forces.

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Our nation's involvement in Vietnam spanned three decades. It's estimated that more than 2,500,000 Americans served in Vietnam. More than 58,000 lost their lives and another 350,000 were wounded. When the Tet attack started, America had over 400,000 soldiers and Marine servicemen in Vietnam.

This historic 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Tribute honors the generation who served during the Vietnam War. They didn't hesitate to put their lives on the line and sacrifice when our country called. All of them deserve our gratitude. If you're a veteran who served, or you want to honor a family member or friend who served, this handsome Tribute pistol will be a lasting tribute to all who honorably served in Vietnam. Order yours today to secure your place in this edition honoring all those who proudly served in Vietnam.

The artwork on the Tribute features battles scenes from urban settings, like Saigon and Hue. You'll also see an image of the flag raising over the Thuong Tu Gate at the Citadel in Hue. When Hue was overrun by the Communist forces, they quickly replaced the South Vietnamese flag which flew at the Citadel with a huge Viet Cong banner. This banner could be seen throughout the city and was a daily reminder of the overthrow and occupation of this treasured Vietnamese city by the Viet Cong and the NVA. This scene shows a South Vietnam banner once again flying over the citadel after the city was reclaimed on February 24, 1968.



The artwork on the right side includes an M48 tank. The M48 "Patton tanks" helped provide cover and firepower in the urban setting, as our troops reclaimed the cities, street by street. Both sides of the slide also feature a banner that reads Tet Offensive January 1968, commemorating this pivotal period in the war. On both sides of the slide, you'll find crisscrossed M16 and M14 weapons used during the Tet Offensive, with the date 1968 and Tet Offensive and Lest We Forget at the bottom.



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# LORE OF THE LEGION

STORY: **JEFF STOFFER**  
ART: **GARY MARTIN**  
COLOR: **MARCHS ESKOW**

**NOV. 9, 1919:** VETERANS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY, FARMERS, FACTORY WORKERS, BUSINESSMEN, NURSES AND TEACHERS, POUR INTO MINNEAPOLIS FOR THE 1ST AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION.

MORE THAN 500 BOY SCOUTS IN UNIFORM ARE THERE TO GREET THEM.

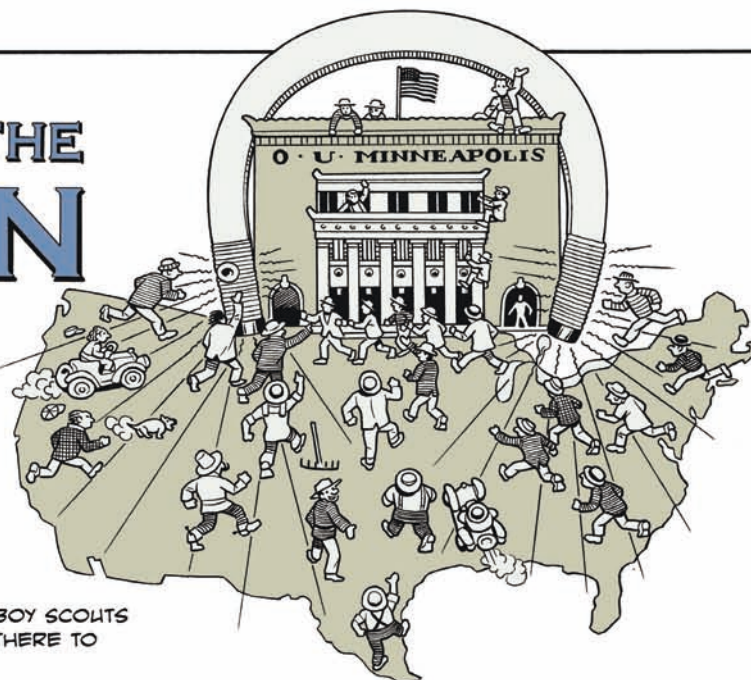


ILLUSTRATION BY GARY MARTIN

REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS FROM 62 DIFFERENT MEDIA OUTLETS REGISTER AT THE PUBLICITY TABLE TO COVER THE AMERICAN LEGION'S 1ST NATIONAL CONVENTION.



**NOV. 10, 1919:** AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CHAIRMAN HENRY D. LINDSLEY CALLS THE 1ST NATIONAL CONVENTION TO ORDER AT 10:28 A.M. FORMER UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PRESIDENT CYRUS NORTHRUP GIVES THE INVOCATION: "ALMIGHTY GOD, WE THANK THEE FOR THE PATRIOTIC SPIRIT WHICH MOVED THE FIGHTING MEN OF AMERICA TO NOW PRESENT THEMSELVES IN A SOLID PHALANX... JUST AS THEY PRESENTED THEMSELVES AGAINST THE FOE ON FOREIGN SOIL."

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5. CONSTITUTION
6. ELECTION OF NATIONAL COMMANDER

**MONDAY EVENING, NOV. 10:** DELEGATES DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY AT AMERICAN LEGION POSTS AROUND THE TWIN CITIES. MANY ATTEND A BOXING MATCH AT THE ARMORY, FOLLOWED BY A CONCERT THERE BY THE MILLION DOLLAR BAND.



**TUESDAY, NOV. 11, 10:58 A.M.:** CHAIRMAN LINDSLEY CALLS THE CONVENTION TO A HALT, FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE ON ARMISTICE DAY, "FOR OUR COMRADES WHO ON THE OTHER SIDE GAVE THEIR LIVES NOT ONLY THAT THE WORLD MIGHT BE SAFE BUT THAT WE AS A NATION MIGHT CONTINUE TO LIVE AS A FREE PEOPLE."



**NOV. 11, 2 P.M.:** THOUSANDS OF SHIVERING SPECTATORS LINE NICOLLET AVENUE IN A LIGHT SNOW TO SEE THE FIRST AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION PARADE. AMONG THE MARCHERS IS SGT. STUBBY, THE CANINE WAR HERO WHO LATER BECAME A LEGIONNAIRE.



**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12:** FRANKLIN D'OLIER OF PENNSYLVANIA IS ELECTED NATIONAL COMMANDER AND DELIVERS THE SHORTEST ACCEPTANCE SPEECH IN HISTORY.

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# 'THE BEST IS YET TO COME'

*National Commander Denise H. Rohan extols The American Legion's past, present and future service.*



Photo by Schelly Stone

Opening The American Legion's 100th National Convention, National Commander Denise H. Rohan showed off a piece of history: the gavel used at the Legion's inaugural convention, in the same city, in November 1919.

Speaking to thousands of veterans and their families gathered in Minneapolis, Rohan said the organization's centennial is "a significant milestone that few achieve. To gather here with the same mission, the same pillars and the same commitment to serve as our founders did a century ago is truly a remarkable achievement."

After naming several of the Legion's greatest accomplishments since that first convention 100 years ago, Rohan declared that the nation's largest veterans organization is just getting started. "At 99 years old, people might understandably ask The American Legion, 'Aren't you tired?'"

"My answer is, 'Hell no! The best is yet to come!'"

Rohan's report to the national convention touched on VA health care, disaster relief, membership improvements and other aspects of her year as national commander.

She praised the recent VA MISSION Act, which streamlines VA processes and incorporates Legion resolution-driven initiatives, including expanded benefits for caregivers of pre-9/11 veterans.

Rohan also reiterated the Legion's opposition to VA privatization. "While we recognize that VA is not always a practical option for all veterans, the expansion of Choice for some should not require the cutting of services for others," she said. "We believe that veterans fought for the red, white and blue, not

Blue Cross and Blue Shield. They deserve real health care, not just a thank you and a voucher."

She recognized the American Legion Family for consistently supporting those affected by natural disasters. "You certainly didn't get tired (of helping) when you gave generously to hurricane victims in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico," she said. "I also know you won't be too tired to continue to give to victims affected by the hurricane in Hawaii and wildfires out west."

That giving spirit was evident, too, in a \$50,000 Operation Comfort Warriors grant to provide baby welcome kits at 58 VA medical centers across the country, distributed the week of Mother's Day.

Rohan emphasized that effective service to others has always fueled The American Legion but is even more essential as it enters its second century.

"We must be present for active-duty troops and the families of those who are deployed," she said. "We shouldn't just be there for troop send-offs and welcome-homes but when the television cameras are turned off as well. Help the family whose loved one is deployed ... by mowing a yard, shoveling snow or fixing a leaky faucet. And when our heroes come home, give them a place to go where they will feel comfortable sharing their friendship and their thoughts. Get them help if they need it. Give them something to do to make them feel like a needed member of our family. God knows we could all use some extra hands at the post."

"We must personally engage with all of our Legionnaires so they can understand that they are all valued members of our family."



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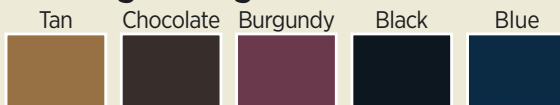
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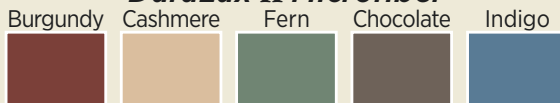
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# HISTORY

## EVERYWHERE YOU LOOKED

The American Legion's 100th National Convention – in the city and even the same area of Minneapolis where the first was held in November 1919 – called for a celebration of the Legion's legacy, from every angle of the week-long event.

Each band performing in the National Band Contest incorporated history into its set. Minnesota's 9th District American Legion Band finished with C.W. Parker's "American Legion March."

Attendees enjoyed a Centennial Film Festival, anchored by several 1938 Hollywood releases. That year, all the major studios released movies that incorporated the Legion Family somehow; at the time, Post 43 in Hollywood had a significant local influence that the post is reviving today.

The convention also featured past parade footage (the 1941 parade in Milwaukee was presented in Technicolor) and a preview of "To Strengthen a Nation," an episodic documentary developed by National Headquarters to tell the story of The American Legion at 100 years.

The convention's general session opened with a musical, theatrical journey through time, highlighting the origins of the Legion and its role in American life. The show resurrected the World War I era with music, dance and a dramatic monologue by Troupe America, which featured a re-enactor who portrayed Theodore Roosevelt Jr., a pivotal founder of the organization. "Roosevelt" closed by declaring, "Today, a new vision is coming into focus, led by new generations of veterans, including – I am delighted to say – my own grandson."

Theodore Roosevelt IV, chairman of the Legion's 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee, saluted the man portraying his grandfather. He and other members of the Honorary Committee – including Vietnam War combat nurse Diane Carlson Evans, Olympic gold medalist Jamie Corkish, former NBC Vice President Val Nicholas and international affairs consultant Susan Eisenhower, as well as Past National Commander David K. Rehbein, chairman of the Legion's 100th Anniversary Observance Committee – spoke about the Legion's legacy and influence on their lives. The younger Roosevelt declared that concrete action on behalf of the nation's veterans and their families has been "the heart and soul of The American Legion, now entering its second tour of duty, its second hundred years."

Watch the convention's opening musical online:

 [vimeo.com/290916463](https://vimeo.com/290916463)



*"Today, I am happy to stand here as an example of how much The American Legion does for veterans."*

**Stuart Parker**, USAA CEO and Air Force veteran, who obtained a master's in business administration through vocational rehabilitation, a program supported by the Legion



*"It takes too long for veterans. We are losing veterans while they're waiting, and that's not acceptable."*

**Cheryl Mason**, chairwoman of the Board of Veterans Appeals, on the need to speed up claims decisions



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## LEGACY RUN DONATIONS BREAK RECORD



Photo by Justin L. Stewart

The American Legion Riders helped raise more than \$600,000 for the Legion's Legacy Scholarship Fund during their 13th annual Legacy Run, and that was just the beginning.

Riders gathered on the convention stage to present donations, and by the time they finished, a record \$1,256,930 had been raised – the fifth straight year the ride has brought in more than \$1 million. The Department of Minnesota led the way, donating \$251,000 on the floor – \$51,000 more than it delivered a year ago. Other top department donations were the departments of Missouri (\$93,324), South Carolina (\$65,204), Florida (\$57,005), Wisconsin (\$45,439) and Kansas (\$27,717). Stevens-Christian Post 557 in Wintersville, Ohio, contributed \$15,000.

"It is difficult for those of you who are not involved with the American Legion Riders to understand the passion the men and women in the American Legion Family have for our fellow veterans, their families, the community and the memory of our fallen comrades," said Legionnaire Bob Sussan, chairman of the National American Legion Riders Advisory Committee and chief road captain for the Legacy Run.

This year's five-day run left Kansas and traveled through Missouri, Iowa and Wisconsin before arriving outside Minneapolis. More than 200 motorcycles completed the ride.

The Legacy Fund provides college money for the children of U.S. military personnel killed on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, as well as children of post-9/11 veterans whose combined VA disability rating is 50 percent or higher.



Photo by Lucas Carter

## Pence vows improvements in veterans' care

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence told Legionnaires that the White House has made it easier for veterans to access their health care and benefits.

"We've expanded telehealth options, we've opened a new White House VA hotline run by veterans for veterans, and we've made it easier for America's veterans to get the mental health-care services they need to treat the invisible wounds of war," he said.

Pence added that the Trump administration has worked hard to improve VA, noting \$55 million in retroactive benefits paid out to veterans – thanks to the work and advocacy of The American Legion.

"Your work over the past century has made an incalculable difference for our nation's veterans, those who serve in the armed forces today and their families," said Pence, son of a Korean War Bronze Star recipient and the father of a Marine.

He congratulated the organization on the occasion of its 100th convention. "Thanks to the men and women of The American Legion, we are at the start of a new century of American strength, and The American Legion has been there every step of the way."

The vice president then praised the Legion's children and youth programs; in 1977, he won the Department of Indiana's Oratorical Contest, which sparked his "lifelong love of the Constitution of the United States," he said.

Pence also spoke on national security, including progress made against the Islamic State: "Together with our allies, we've taken the fight to radicalized Islam on their soil. ISIS is on the run, their caliphate has crumbled, and we soon will drive ISIS from the face of the earth."

Pence received for President Trump an engraved gold-plated .22-caliber repeating rifle, the prize for the Philip B. Onderdonk Jr. Religious Liberty Award presented by the First Liberty Institute. This year, First Liberty selected Trump for his actions to protect religious freedom, particularly in the federal government.



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# WILKIE: VA community experience unmatched

Barely a month after being sworn in as VA secretary, Robert Wilkie addressed The American Legion on the convention floor, assuring delegates that VA is “the best option for care for veterans.”

Emphasizing the need for a health-care system that specializes in “treating veterans in the language of veterans,” Wilkie said the private sector cannot replicate VA’s expertise in areas such as spinal-cord injury, traumatic brain injury, rehabilitative services, prosthetics, audiology, services for the blind and suicide prevention.

Wilkie reiterated what he told the Senate at his July confirmation hearing: “There is one unspoken fact of VA life that can never be replaced. It can never be replicated. It can never be privatized. That is the community nature of the VA experience. For your service to America, you deserve to come to and be treated by those who know what you and your families have gone through.”

Customer service will be his priority, he added. “When a veteran comes to VA, it is not up to him or her to employ a cauldron of lawyers to get VA to say ‘yes.’ It is up to VA to say ‘yes.’ That is customer service.”

Wilkie praised The American Legion for keeping veterans issues at the forefront for a century. “You were powerful advocates for the establishment of the Veterans Bureau in 1921,” he said. “In 1924, you told the president to expand access to include non-service-connected illnesses – legislation that changed what it fundamentally means to care for all of those who have worn the uniform.”

“In 1988, it was you who sat with Ronald Reagan and led him to say that your seat at the table means that our veterans will never be forgotten in the national affairs of the United States of America.”

Wilkie pledged to continue to include the Legion as an ally. “This is a bottom-up organization,” he said. “The American Legion has a seat at the table. You have that open door to the 10th floor of the Department of Veterans Affairs.”



## SELECT RESOLUTIONS OF THE 100TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

### AMERICANISM

**112** Funding for drug trafficking prevention programs

### INTERNAL AFFAIRS

**1** Reaffirmation of American Legion’s founding principles for a second century of service

**4** Adopt A Cemetery program to promote care of local veterans graves

**26** Award Congressional Gold Medal to USS *Indianapolis* crew

**86** Award Congressional Gold Medal to 23rd Headquarters Special Troops and 3133rd Signal Service Company of World War II

**108** Support for legislation to introduce Atomic Veterans Service Medal

**109** Support for review of World War I minority veterans’ valor awards, for Medal of Honor consideration

**110** Support for Congressional Gold Medal for Signal Corps female telephone operators of World War I

### NATIONAL SECURITY

**6** Retain and maintain Armed Services Retirement Homes

**41** State funeral for the last World War II Medal of Honor recipient

**98** Continuation of military death benefits during government shutdown

**99** Commission USS *American Legion*

### VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

**18** Amend set dates of Agent Orange illness

**58** Compensation for veterans requiring hearing aids for service-connected hearing loss

**68** All blood work by Veterans Health Administration to include hepatitis C test

**85** Designate POWs, Purple Heart and Medal of Honor recipients as Priority Group 1 veterans


**116** Promote and instill “post-traumatic growth” theory rather than “broken heroes” narrative

### VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

**101** Support for continuation of public service loan forgiveness program

**102** Expansion of DoD Transition Assistance Program (TAP) to include ancillary programs and services

The full text of all 53 resolutions passed at the convention is available in the Legion’s Digital Archive:

 [archive.legion.org](https://archive.legion.org), click on “Resolutions and Founding Documents of The American Legion”



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# 'WHAT WE DO'

On Aug. 24, members of the American Legion Family worked with a local nonprofit organization to improve a community garden in St. Paul.

Photo by Lucas Carter

More than three dozen American Legion Family volunteers ventured out in the rain to join local nonprofit Rebuilding Together Twin Cities in making improvements to a St. Paul community garden.

Past Department of Colorado Commander Terri Clinton took time off from work and flew into Minneapolis a day early to participate in the project. "We always say as an American Legion Family, 'It's what we do,'" she said. "We support our veteran communities throughout the nation, whether that's through our post or at a community event here at the (national) convention. We had more people who wanted to volunteer than we had seats on the bus. I think that speaks volumes."

Michele Steinmetz, the Legion's national membership engagement coordinator, organized the American Legion side of the volunteer effort. "We're passionate about being able to give back to the community in which the national convention is being held," she said. "We don't care about the rain, wind, storms. We toughed it out in the military, and we're toughing it out today."

Also during convention week, an Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) grant gave Army and Air Force veteran Michael Bacon and his wife, Alicia, the opportunity to attend a renaissance festival and a Minnesota Twins game, as well

as the convention parade, a luncheon, and meet-and-greet with the American Legion Youth Champions.

Bacon, who suffered a traumatic brain injury in an IED explosion in Iraq in 2006, received a \$2,500 custom-fitted all-terrain trike so he can resume riding with his 14-year-old daughter. "After you suffer an injury like mine, getting help can sometimes be difficult," Bacon said. "For an organization to come to me and say 'What do you need?' is incredible. I can continue living the life I want to live, the life I had before I was in the military."

On the convention stage, the Legion and Soldier's Wish presented Zan Washington of the Minnesota National Guard with a mobility van. Following her service, Washington played on professional women's football teams and worked with her community's at-risk youth. But a fall last year left her paralyzed, on a ventilator and facing life as a quadriplegic. The van will make it possible for Washington to get to and from the homeless children's shelter where she serves as manager of outreach services.

"Soldier's Wish is about giving our active-duty military, veterans and their families a better quality of life," said Mark Ochsenbein, volunteer executive director for Soldier's Wish and a Legionnaire. "It is our hope that her wish today will open up a world of opportunities."

*"The American Legion helps make veterans like myself be the best versions of ourselves. To be here and to become a member of the Legion is awesome. I am very humbled."*

**Melissa Stockwell**, convention emcee, Army veteran, Paralympian and motivational speaker. Stockwell is the first American woman to lose a limb in combat, during her deployment to Iraq in 2004.



Photo by Schelly Stone





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## REISTAD INVITES LEGIONNAIRES TO JOIN TEAM 100

With his election as national commander, Brett P. Reistad of Virginia kicked off The American Legion's 15-month celebration of a century of service to veterans, local communities and the nation.

"This is a unique opportunity for us to reflect on our many accomplishments and share them with our friends, neighbors and communities," Reistad said following his election. "It's also an opportunity for us to be a part of that history. My theme for the year is 'Celebrating Our Legacy,' but it's also about charting the course for our future and remaining strong and relevant."

Strength means maintaining a strong membership and working together, he added. "That is why I have chosen 'Team 100' to be our centennial membership theme – to bring all our resources to bear, increase our membership and start our second century of service on the right foot. You, my fellow Legionnaires, are 'Team 100,' and I need your commitment to achieve this success."

Reistad said the Legion has focused on empowering thousands of local posts – each with its own legacy of service – to tell the Legion's centennial story at the community level.

"Some posts operate local ambulance services and hospitals," he said. "Legionnaires in Mexico dedicate their time, money and efforts to help disabled children. In Pennsylvania, the Legion's Housing for Homeless Veterans program is a model of success for the rest of the nation. In Montana, the Legion places markers along the roadways to remind drivers to slow down and be careful."

The centennial is an opportunity to connect the Legion's legacy to tomorrow's leaders. "The future belongs to a new generation of veterans – those who have served in the war on terrorism," Reistad said. "One by one, and in groups, they are joining The American Legion, assuming leadership roles and advancing a vision that matches that of our World War I founders."



Photo by Schelly Stone

### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL PRESIDENT KATHY DUNGAN

UNIT: Drane-Prine Unit 79, Wesson, Miss.

YEARS IN AUXILIARY: 42

ELIGIBILITY: Father (Army, World War II)

### SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL COMMANDER GREG "DOC" GIBBS

SQUADRON: Squadron 527, Hamburg, N.Y.

YEARS IN SAL: 19

ELIGIBILITY: Father (Marines, World War II/Korea)



Photo by Lucas Carter



## SEE A FULL LIST OF AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THE 100TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

[www.legion.org/convention/243179/minneapolis-award-recipients](http://www.legion.org/convention/243179/minneapolis-award-recipients)

*LEFT: The American Legion's Spirit of Service award recipients are recognized for outstanding off-duty volunteer service in their local communities.* Photo by Schelly Stone



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Photo by Lucas Carter

**3** Percent of veterans currently unemployed, down from 3.5 percent in July 2017 and lower than the non-veteran unemployment rate, according to retired Army Col. Adam Roche, moderator of the Veterans Employment and Education (VE&E) Committee meeting

**490,000** Information technology jobs in America that go unfilled due to a shortage of people with IT backgrounds. Retired Maj. Gen. Chris Cortez, vice president of military affairs at Microsoft, told the committee about Microsoft's Software and Systems Academy (MSSA) program, which provides transitioning servicemembers and veterans the skills to get into the IT industry and benefit the company and industry nationwide.

**31,000+** Veterans and military spouses who have obtained employment opportunities through Hiring Our Heroes events since 2011, often with American Legion involvement and support

**44** Percent of veterans who leave their initial post-military job within one year, according to USAA CEO Stuart Parker in his speech to the convention

**\$40 million** Amount that USAA, The American Legion's preferred financial provider, will contribute to military causes this year

**32** Donors who participated in this year's one-day blood drive in the exhibit hall, with 27 pints collected

**12** First-time blood donors who gave

*"The American Legion now, for 100 years, has made sure that the history of our brave veterans is passed on from generation to generation."*

**Sen. Amy Klobuchar**, D-Minn., addressing the convention



Photo by Schelly Stone

*"When I look at these seats with you in them, what I know is that you are far more than just Legionnaires. You are far more than veterans. You are the conscience of this nation, and that voice must always be heard."*

**Rep. Tim Walz**, D-Minn., ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, on how bipartisanship is key to the committee's track record of getting legislation passed



Photo by Lucas Carter

*"I'm extremely honored (to receive) this award. But we all know there are folks out there on the lines doing as much, if not more, going unrecognized."*

**Damon Faust** of Clackamas, Ore., recipient of the American Legion National Firefighter of the Year Award



Photo by Lucas Carter

*"I wear the medal for all the brave men and women I served with. I'm just the caretaker for them."*

**Walter Joseph Marm Jr.**, who received the Medal of Honor for valor in the Vietnam War. Marm spoke during the opening ceremonies.



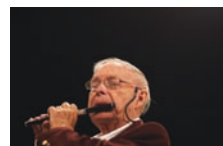
Photo by Schelly Stone

## WATCH CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS ONLINE

Experience (or enjoy again) some of the top moments from Minneapolis, including:

- The Color Guard and Band contests
- The Patriotic Memorial Service
- All three days of floor activity, including a salute to the Legion's history
- Elizabeth Dole receiving the Distinguished Service Medal

[legion.org/legiontv](http://legion.org/legiontv), click on National Convention playlist







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## 2018-2019 NATIONAL OFFICERS

### JOHN "JACK" F. MILBURN

*National Vice Commander*



**HOME:** Baltimore  
**REGION:** Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia

**MEMBERSHIP:** 53 years, Post 183

**MILITARY BRANCH:** Navy

**LEGION HIGHLIGHTS:** County cmdr., dept. cmdr., dept. sgt.-at-arms, post cmdr.

**NATIONAL POSITIONS:** Nat'l Exec. Cmte., Foreign Relations Cncl., Internal Affairs Liaison Cmte., Law & Order and Homeland Sec. Cmte., Legislative Cncl.

### PAUL SPEDALIERE

*National Vice Commander*



**HOME:** Lebanon, Conn.  
**REGION:** Connecticut, Delaware, France, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont  
**MEMBERSHIP:** 14 years, Post 180

**MILITARY BRANCH:** Navy

**LEGION HIGHLIGHTS:** Dept. cmdr., dist. adj., dist. cmdr., post cmdr.

**NATIONAL POSITIONS:** Americanism Cncl., Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Cmte.

### FRED DOTEN

*National Historian*



**HOME:** Laughlin, Nev.  
**MEMBERSHIP:** 46 years, Post 60  
**MILITARY BRANCH:** Army  
**LEGION HIGHLIGHTS:** Dept. historian, post adj., post cmdr.

**NATIONAL POSITIONS:** Distinguished Guests Cmte., Media & Comm. Cncl., Nat'l Sec. Cncl.

### JAMES E. WALLACE

*National Vice Commander*



**HOME:** Pinckney, Mich.  
**REGION:** Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Wisconsin  
**MEMBERSHIP:** 47 years, Post 419  
**MILITARY BRANCH:** Army

**LEGION HIGHLIGHTS:** Dept. cmdr., dist. cmdr., post cmdr.

**NATIONAL POSITIONS:** Americanism Cncl., Nat'l Sec. Cncl.

### JAMES STEPHEN SWEET

*National Vice Commander*



**HOME:** Greenville, Miss.  
**REGION:** Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota  
**MEMBERSHIP:** 46 years, Post 32  
**MILITARY BRANCH:** Navy

**LEGION HIGHLIGHTS:** Dept. cmdr., dist. cmdr., post adj., post cmdr.

**NATIONAL POSITIONS:** Nat'l Exec. Cmte. alternate, Health Administration Cmte., Legislative Cncl., Nat'l Sec. Cncl., VA&R Cmsn.

### JAMES E. PISA

*National Vice Commander*



**HOME:** Anchorage, Alaska  
**REGION:** Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Mexico, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon,

Philippines, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

**MEMBERSHIP:** 45 years, Post 35

**MILITARY BRANCH:** Navy

**LEGION HIGHLIGHTS:** Dept. cmdr., dept. hist., dept. sgt.-at-arms, dist. cmdr., post cmdr.

**NATIONAL POSITIONS:** Nat'l cmdr.'s aide, Veterans Education & Employment Liaison Cmte., Nat'l Exec. Cmte., Legis. Cncl., Military Affairs Cmte., Nat'l Sec. Cncl., Resolutions Subcmte., VA&R Cmsn., VA&R Liaison



*Newly elected American Legion National Commander Brett P. Reistad is joined by his five national vice commanders on the convention stage in Minneapolis. Photo by Lucas Carter*

### FATHER PHILIP G. SALOIS

*National Chaplain*



**HOME:** North Smithfield, R.I.  
**MEMBERSHIP:** 31 years, Post 20  
**MILITARY BRANCH:** Army  
**LEGION HIGHLIGHTS:** Dept. chaplain  
**NATIONAL**

**POSITIONS:** Distinguished Guests Cmte., Nat'l Sec. Cncl.

### WILLIE D. RANSOM

*National Sergeant-at-Arms*



**HOME:** Powhatan, Va.  
**MEMBERSHIP:** 33 years, Post 186  
**MILITARY BRANCH:** Army  
**LEGION HIGHLIGHTS:** Dist. cmdr., post adj., post cmdr.

**NATIONAL POSITIONS:** Americanism Cncl., VA&R Cmsn., VA&R Cncl.



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A painting depicts the six signatories of the 1918 armistice with other participants in a carriage of Supreme Allied Commander Marshal Ferdinand Foch's private train, in the forest of Compiègne. In 1940, Adolf Hitler selected the same site and rail car for the signing of a French surrender armistice, even sitting in the same chair used by Foch. [Wikimedia Commons](#)

# The War That Didn't End

*As the old imperial order collapsed, fighting continued around the world.*

BY JAY WINTER

There is a conventional story we all learned at school. Here it is in a nutshell: World War I ended at 11 a.m. on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Six hours earlier, a German delegation signed the armistice in a train car in Compiègne, 80 miles from Paris. The guns fell silent at 11 a.m. precisely. The troops came home. The interwar years began. Twenty-one years later, interwar turned into wartime, which in its turn ended with a bang after atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. War. Peace. War.

If only history were as neat as that, or that it approximated the clean break with violence captured by a U.S. Signal Corps seismograph,

showing the sound of artillery until 11 a.m. on Nov. 11 and the unbroken line of silence thereafter. If this had been an electrocardiograph of war, we would conclude justly that the First World War died precisely then.

History is messier than that. War didn't die, and violence didn't stop. The war on the Western Front between Germany and the combined forces of Britain, France, the United States and others was over, but everywhere else, fighting continued in many different forms. International war bled into civil war, indistinguishable from revolutionary and counter-revolutionary conflicts. New nations fought against old nations and against other new nations.



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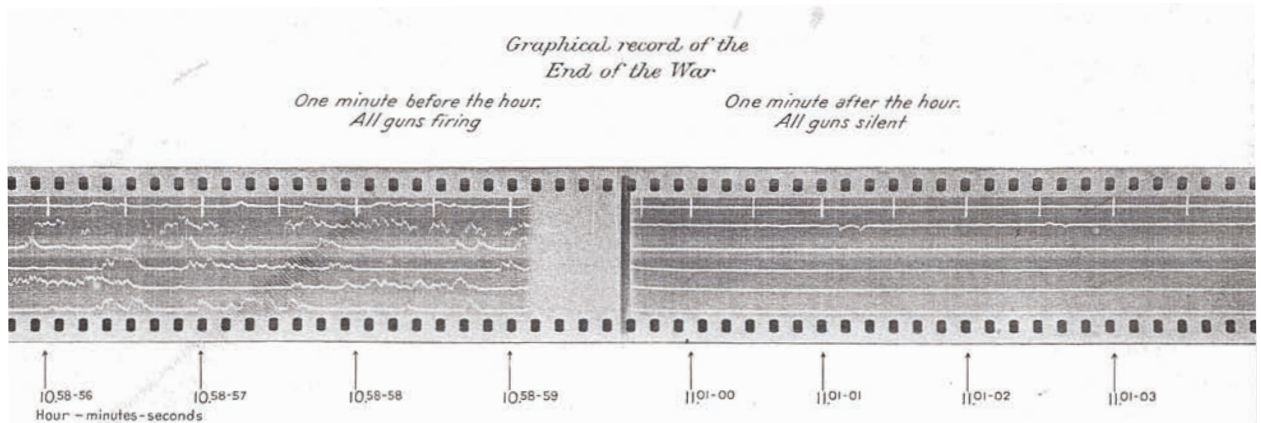


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A reproduction of an audio recording of artillery activity on the American front near the River Moselle shows the contrast following the war's official cease-fire at 11 o'clock on the morning of Nov. 11, 1918. Photo courtesy of the George C. Marshall Foundation, Lexington, Virginia

Poland fought Bolshevik Russia, and both fought Ukrainian nationalists. Baltic nationalists fought Bolsheviks and each other. Finns engaged in a nasty civil war, and armed groups roamed throughout eastern and southern Europe with impunity.

Why the explosion of post-Nov. 11 violence? Because the collapse of the German empire was only one of a number of such disasters to beset the old imperial order. The abdication of the Russian czar in 1917 and the decision of the moderate provisional government that replaced him to continue to fight on the Allied side created a power vacuum filled by the Bolsheviks, who took over in late 1917. Vladimir Lenin pulled Russia out of the international war so he could consolidate power in the face of armed opposition from many sides.

In 1919, the Allies, led by Winston Churchill, made a halfhearted decision to help overthrow the communist government by injecting troops from Britain, France, Greece and the United States into the fighting. They were joined by Czech troops already there. Their presence in Russia helped galvanize local support for the Bolsheviks, and did nothing to save the disorganized and corrupt White armies from defeat. So after November 1918, when peace supposedly had broken out, on the Russian front a hot war was fought and lost by an anti-communist coalition that included the United States, leading by 1924 to the recognition of the Soviet Union and the start of a cold war.

The Russian front was on fire after November 1918, but it was not the only front still marked by violence. The collapse of the Austro-Hungarian empire led to the formation of new states in Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland. In each, there was the threat of a communist seizure of power. In Hungary, communist Béla Kun did seize power in

Budapest, leading to a Red Terror, followed by a White Terror when his short-lived regime was overthrown. In Austria and Czechoslovakia, centrist elements prevailed. In Poland and Ukraine, nationalists attacked Jews supposedly allied with their enemies. Jews who had been uprooted during the war faced even worse conditions after November 1918. The mixture of anti-Bolshevik, extreme nationalist and anti-Semitic attitudes created a potent, toxic brew out of which fascist movements emerged in the early 1920s. The Nazis were but one startup party that emerged not during the war, but in its aftermath.

The Ottoman front was the site of ongoing and extensive warfare as well. After the occupation of Constantinople, the old regime signed a peace treaty that effectively partitioned Anatolia into colonial holdings under the control of British, French, Italian and Greek forces, the last of which engaged in brutal treatment of Muslims in western Anatolia. In response to the partition of their country and the maltreatment of Muslims, a new military force arose that overturned both the peace and the old Ottoman order. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the hero of Ottoman resistance at Gallipoli in 1915, created a new Turkish army that defeated the invading forces – and in the process brutalized and dispossessed Christian civilians whose ancestors had lived in Anatolia for 1,000 years or more. The end of this period of ethnic cleansing was the burning down in 1922 of the Christian city of Smyrna on the west coast of Anatolia, and its reconstruction as the Muslim city of Izmir. A new peace treaty was signed by Atatürk and the Allies reflecting the new facts on the ground, creating the dangerous precedent of the recognition in international law of ethnic cleansing euphemistically termed “population exchange.”



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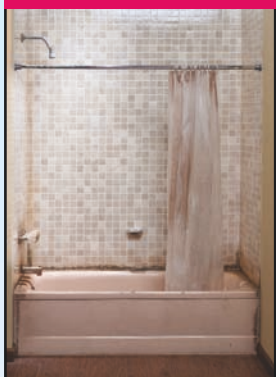


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Atatürk's victory heralded a new era in the history of Turkey. He modernized the language and urged his fellow Turks to follow the lead of the West. To ensure that he alone held power, he ended the caliphate, which had made the Sultan the symbolic head of Sunni Islam. To many devout Muslims, the end of the caliphate ushered in a crisis in Islam itself. Who would guard the sacred sites of Islam? Who would uphold the Muslim moral and political order? Into this

vacuum, several devout Muslim groups emerged. Among them was the Muslim Brotherhood, founded in Cairo in 1928 and the theological and spiritual inspiration of a number of anti-Western groups, including, eventually, al-Qaida.

At the same time, the Allied carve-up of the Middle East produced violence on the local level that has also spanned the century following the "peace" of 1918. A 1919 revolt in Egypt followed the Allies' refusal to allow local leader Saad Zaghloul to present Egypt's demand for independence to the Paris Peace Conference. He was arrested and imprisoned on Malta and later in the Seychelles. When freed, Zaghloul returned to Egypt and continued the struggle for independence, which finally succeeded in 1952. Riots in Palestine in 1919 anticipated the chronic violence attending the conflict between Zionist and Palestinian Arab political groups, which a century later refuses to dissipate.

Further afield, the anti-colonial struggle entered a new phase in 1919. In India, hundreds of peaceful demonstrators were massacred in Amritsar, turning those who had supported the British war effort – including Mahatma Gandhi – into a force that over time pushed the British into contemplating what until then had been unthinkable: leaving India to the Indians. That too came after World War II, but was foreshadowed after the 1918 armistice.

A different kind of anti-colonial force emerged elsewhere in Asia. On March 1, 1919, Korean leaders – influenced by Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points – read out a declaration of independence of Korea, then a province of the Japanese empire. More than 1 million people participated in demonstrations in support of this demand, and when local police could not quell the disorder, the military was called in.



*A crowd prepares to burn an effigy of the German Kaiser at Paris' Place de la Concorde, in celebration of the signing of the 1918 armistice.* Library of Congress

Several thousand Koreans were killed.

Wilson's message mattered in China too. The country had been in the midst of a civil war and could not match the naval contribution Japan made to the Allied cause. Consequently, when the Allies met at Versailles to distribute the colonial or quasi-colonial holdings of the old German empire – including the province of Shandong, south of Beijing – they considered the Japanese case stronger than the Chinese

case. At least temporarily, Shandong came under Japanese rule. No matter that 150,000 Chinese laborers were sent from Shandong to dig trenches in France; no matter that Shandong was the birthplace of Confucius. Rewarding Japan for its contribution to Allied victory came first. When the news reached Beijing of this decision on May 4, 1919, students burned down the telegraph office, rioted and organized a new movement named for the day of the riots – the May Fourth Movement – out of which emerged the Chinese Communist Party.

These events in India, Korea and China signaled one of the paradoxes of the peace of 1918. On one hand, the Allies won the war because they were able to marshal their imperial armies and resources, and consequently in a war of endurance, the Central powers ran out of men and materiel first. In this sense, the Great War was the high point of empire. But the war was also the beginning of the end of empire, in part because it economically weakened Britain and France, both of which were unable over time to reconstruct their societies at home and consolidate their imperial holdings abroad. The mandate system of the new League of Nations, established by the peace treaty, envisioned freedom for colonies over time. How much time was a matter of dispute, but once the Wilsonian message of self-determination of peoples was linked to the Allied victory, and to the new league Wilson created, the days of empire were numbered.

One of those present in Paris at the end of the war began his and his people's march to independence then and there. In 1919, Vietnam was part of the French empire. During the peace conference, Nguyen Ai Quoc (Ho Chi Minh) petitioned the Allies to establish a regime of law and freedom of speech and assembly in Vietnam. He also sought





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representation in the French Parliament, from which he believed self-determination for the Annamite (Vietnamese) people would be enacted in law. He received no reply. Instead, he was put under surveillance by the French security police. A year later, Ho was at the founding meeting of the French Communist party. Thereafter he traveled to the Soviet Union and China, en route to Vietnam and the 50-year struggle ahead of him and his movement.

This global tracery of agitation and violence was not visible in the United States when the American Expeditionary Forces came home. World War I became a short-term memory, one of victory purchased by American bravery and muscle over roughly one year of combat. Fortunately, only 50,000 American soldiers died in combat; 50,000 more died of the influenza epidemic of 1918 and 1919. This statement does not for a moment diminish the harshness of the struggle against Germany in 1918 leading to the armistice, but U.S. combat losses in the whole of World War I were approximately equal to the losses France suffered in August 1914. The United States suffered a bloody nose, not a bloodbath. Hence the family memories of soldiers' sacrifice in 1914-1918 pale in comparison with those of either the Civil War or World War II.

Industrial warfare did take its toll. When the Marines took Belleau Wood in June 1918, they did so at a high price: 1,800 killed and another 8,000 wounded – more than the United States had suffered at any time since 1865. American forces played a major part in the last Allied offensive in September and October 1918 in the Ardennes, and kept the pressure up on retreating German forces until they had to come to terms with their defeat. Gen. John J. Pershing wanted to push on into Germany in later November 1918, but French generalissimo Ferdinand Foch overruled him.

The war on the Western Front ended on Nov. 11 with German troops still occupying French and Belgian territory. They returned home as an army, and were saluted as if they had been undefeated by the new provisional government in Berlin. The truth was otherwise. The German army had been beaten decisively in the field, and with the collapse of her allies in September and October 1918, Germany could not continue the war. But the timing and terms of the armistice created the material out of

**NEW NATIONS FORMED  
AS A RESULT  
OF WORLD WAR I**

Austria  
Hungary  
Czechoslovakia  
Yugoslavia  
Estonia  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Poland  
Finland  
Turkey

which an entirely false narrative emerged: that Germany had been undefeated but betrayed by the “November criminals” – Jews, socialists and other traitors at home.

It is hardly surprising that in “Mein Kampf,” Adolf Hitler says he decided to start his political career on the day the war ended on the Western Front: Nov. 11, 1918. In one sense, he was right. The armistice was not the harbinger of peace we have

taken it to be for a century. It was a cease-fire leading to a botched peace settlement and continuing violence in eastern and southern Europe and beyond.

Why did the peace fail? Like so many Americans, those who made the peace paid too much attention to the end of hostilities in France and Belgium, and too little attention to wildfires raging everywhere else. And in part it was because those who made the peace in 1919 did not recognize that the war could make the world safe for democracy only if it was underwritten by economic stability. By punishing Germany through reparations, the peacemakers provided the warmakers the opportunity to come with all the ammunition they needed.

In 1945, recognizing that the surrender of Germany did not signal peace, the Allies started a massive program to rebuild Europe economically, and thereby to undergird the new democratic order of the postwar years. The man whose name is associated with this program, Gen. George C. Marshall, had served as a key planner of U.S. military operations in France in 1918. In 1945, he knew what it would take to avoid a repetition of the shortsighted vision of 1918, which had prematurely declared that victory was ours and peace was at hand. Making a real peace took more than stopping the guns on one front. Marshall saw beyond the Signal Corps seismograph that had misled so many others. He lived to see a kind of peace that had evaded the victors of 1918, a peace that lasts. 🌿

*Jay Winter is professor of history emeritus at Yale University and honorary professor at Australian National University. He is the author of “Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning: The Great War in European Cultural History” (1995), “War Beyond Words: Languages of Remembrance From the Great War to the Present” (2017) and editor of the three-volume “Cambridge History of the First World War” (2014).*



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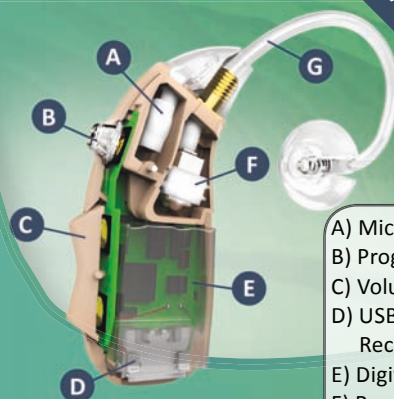


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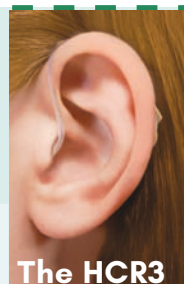
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Retired Army Lt. Gen. Mike Ferriter was looking for something “special” after 35 years of military service. He found it in Columbus, Ohio, where he is the first CEO and president of the new National Veterans Memorial and Museum. Photo by Maddie McGarvey

# A Museum for All Veterans

*After initial controversy, John Glenn’s vision to honor service and sacrifice opens.*

BY HENRY HOWARD

**N**ot only was Tim Shigley adamantly opposed to a national veterans museum in Columbus, Ohio, he organized protests against it.

Plans calling for the Franklin County Veterans Memorial to be razed troubled Shigley and other former servicemembers. With plaques memorializing veterans displayed inside, the building served as a convention hall that hosted business meetings, Arnold Schwarzenegger fitness contests and concerts like The Who in 1969. But John Glenn – Marine Corps veteran, U.S. senator and astronaut – imagined a new purpose for the building and Columbus: a national museum paying tribute to all U.S. veterans.

In 2014, as plans advanced and tensions rose, Shigley – representing The American Legion – joined the Veterans Advisory Committee. The committee voiced concerns about the project while also helping shape Glenn’s vision.

“Through some negotiations and talking I started to see what they had in mind,” recalls Shigley, a

member of Memorial Post 614 in Hilliard. “As the process began, we met with the architects, the landscape designers, the construction companies. Our voices were well-heard by all of them.”

For example, committee members answered questions about phrases, terms and euphemisms that veterans take for granted but may not be widely understood by civilians, Shigley says.

“We were sitting around one day talking about the veteran phrase, ‘We all wrote a blank check,’” he recalls. “One girl in the room asked, ‘What do you mean by that?’ So we explained what it means for a veteran to write a blank check. And that became a very intricate part of a display and part of the overall narrative of the project.”

**SHARING STORIES** On Oct. 27, nearly three years after construction began, the 50,000-square-foot National Veterans Memorial and Museum was set to open in Columbus. A 2.5-acre Memorial Grove,





created as a place for reflection and remembrance, is on the 7-acre downtown campus.

Inside the museum, visitors can trace the service and sacrifice of U.S. veterans from the Revolutionary War through the war on terrorism. What they won't see are tanks, warplanes or weapons common in military museums. Instead, the few objects on display add context to veterans' stories.

"One is a flag that has special meaning to a veteran named Andre," given to his family after his great-grandfather died in World War II, says Amy Taylor, chief operating officer of the Columbus Downtown Development Corp., which oversaw the project. "It was Andre's inspiration ... he was in a military family and was going to continue the tradition. The story is amazing, and seeing the flag gives me goosebumps. But if I saw the flag without the story, it would do nothing. It's about making that connection."

Multimedia presentations convey veterans' stories from basic training through service and beyond. "There's an integral part of this that has to deal with what it's like to be a veteran and how veterans are treated, how some veterans live with fond memories and others with painful memories," Shigley says.

The museum acknowledges struggles such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

"We wanted to tell both sides or all sides of the story, because for some veterans it's not a fun story," he says. "Some people still look at the ground when they say they're veterans because of times in our history ... we know what happened in Vietnam, and sometimes the treatment coming back was not all warm and fuzzy."

**MAKING CONNECTIONS** Retired Army Lt. Gen. Mike Ferriter served 35 years, mostly in infantry, parachute and Ranger units. Later, he commanded Army bases around the world. He was waiting for something "special" for his next assignment.

That turned out to be the museum's first chief executive officer and president.

"Life is about people, and veterans are very special people," says Ferriter, who did three combat tours in Iraq and one in Somalia. "A life of leadership and a life of dealing with soldiers from E1 to secretary of the Army, sometimes in the same day, set me up for that. And I think they were looking for someone with what we would call street credibility."

Ferriter is quick to point out four words that greet museum visitors: Honor, Connect, Inspire and Educate.

"They are the four pillars that are non-negotiable," says Ferriter, noting that they were inspired by Glenn's vision. "Whoever walks in here will be able

to see what this means to them through one of those words. We're going to connect America to our veteran population through this. We're going to honor the service and the sacrifice of our veterans and their families, who kept it all going when the veterans were deployed for training or in combat."

The museum's grand opening will be celebratory but respectful, Ferriter adds.

"We want to get the word out to as many veterans and their family members that their service was honorable and made a difference in the nation's history," he says. "We want to connect. We want to inspire and educate. And we want to have fun."

Ferriter compares the opening to a wedding, full of pomp and circumstance. Then comes the hard work – the marriage – and the long-term, daily effort to grow and build on the foundation. Among the museum's plans: developing an internship program, online curriculum and traveling exhibit.

"We can work and develop fellowships," he says. "We can bring interns here – like students studying videography or IT – and they can gain college credit. We can create simple history for sixth-graders. We can align our product and our curriculum to match what they need, and they can receive credit as they observe and learn. The sky's the limit."

More than \$82 million has been raised from individuals, corporations, foundations and public/private partnerships. As for the veteran plaques in the original building, most will be displayed in the new museum, Taylor says. Shigley has relocated to Florida but was planning to return to Ohio for the opening.

"Now that we can touch it and feel it and see it, the sentiment has changed a lot," he says. "The American Legion in Ohio got behind this very quickly. A lot of people who were against it are now saying, 'Oh, wow. We didn't think this is what you guys had in mind. We thought you were just going to put a piece of rock in the ground and call it a memorial.'"

"It has exceeded my expectations a thousandfold. When we began this project, I would have never thought for a minute that one day we would be part of what would be the National Veterans Memorial and Museum." 🌿

*Henry Howard is deputy director of American Legion media and communications.*

Read a Q&A with National Veterans Memorial and Museum spokesman Col. Tom Moe:

🌐 [legion.org/magazine](http://legion.org/magazine)

Go online for museum admission prices and more:

🌐 [nationalvmm.org](http://nationalvmm.org)



# HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

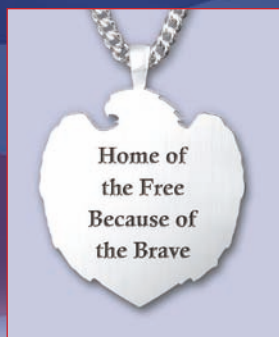
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Photo by Amy C. Elliott

## VETERANS DAY 2018

**“(Veterans), by their lives, by the record of their deeds, teach us in more practical fashion than it can be taught by any preaching, for they teach us by practice, that in the ultimate analysis the greatness of a nation is to be measured not by the output of its industrial products, not by its material prosperity, not by the products of the farm, factory, business house, but by the products of its citizenship, by the men and women that that nation produces.”**

**President Theodore Roosevelt**, speaking of Civil War veterans in San Jose, Calif., on May 6, 1906

### Speeches and more

The American Legion has resources available to help posts and departments observe Veterans Day.

At [legion.org/publications](http://legion.org/publications), you can download a suggested Veterans Day speech to use or adapt according to your needs. A customizable Veterans Day announcement can also be downloaded and submitted to local newspapers and other publications.

After your Veterans Day event, submit a story and photos to the Legiontown page at [legion.org/legiontown](http://legion.org/legiontown), then share it with your friends on social media.

Meanwhile, keep an eye on [legion.org](http://legion.org) for a list of special offers and discounts to servicemembers and veterans.

**20.4 million** Living veterans in the United States in 2016, representing less than 10 percent of the population

**7.1 million** Living veterans who served in the Gulf War era (August 1990 to present)

**6.8 million** Living veterans who served in the Vietnam era

**771,000** Living World War II veterans

**1.6 million** Living Korean War-era veterans

**77** Percent of living veterans who served during wartime

**7** Percent of U.S. adults who are veterans, down from 18 percent in 1980

**12 million** Estimated number of living veterans in 2045, a decrease of 40 percent

**9** Percent of living veterans who are women, projected to increase to 18 percent by 2045

**75** Percent of Americans who say that if they were making a federal budget, they would increase funding for veterans benefits and services

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs, Pew Research



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## CAREERS

## 'One-stop shop' business summit for veterans

After separating from the Army, Alan "A.P." Powell worked for The Firm in Los Angeles, an entertainment company that has represented celebrities such as Robert De Niro and Denzel Washington.

After a time, though, he cast aside the glamour and glitz to pursue his real passion: helping veterans.

"I left that job because as a vet I couldn't get a job when I got out after Desert Storm," he says, adding that he had sought work as a police officer and firefighter. "They weren't hiring. There was a hiring freeze. So I got into the entertainment business, became successful and then became an entrepreneur.

"I wanted to make sure I gave the next guy the chance I didn't have."

Powell and his business partner, Aaron Bare, launched the HeroZona Foundation in 2011, a business dedicated to serving veterans, servicemembers and their families.

"We've put together a Super Bowl conference covering our three pillars," he says, referring to employment, education and entrepreneurship. "We have partnerships both nationally and locally. The Department of Defense, The American Legion, Student Veterans of America and others are supporting this event. We have support from all walks of life who support and care about veterans."

HeroZona will host its second HeroPreneur National Veteran Business Summit in Phoenix Nov. 14-16. The event is free for veterans and will include a career fair, networking opportunities, guest speakers, nearly 100 workshops, seminars on topics such as marketing and financing, and other opportunities related to employment and education. American Legion Legislative Director Matt Shuman will be among the featured speakers.

To find out more about the summit, go online to [www.heropreneur.com](http://www.heropreneur.com).



A.P. Powell Wikimedia Commons

"Anything you want as a veteran, this is a one-stop shop," Powell says. "It's matching up veterans with thinkers who can help get them in the veteran space."

Powell's relationship with The American Legion goes back to the early days of HeroZona. He worked with the Department of Arizona on a program to give backpacks to students and veterans, starting with 1,500 the first year. Now called Phoenix Tools 4 School, it just celebrated its sixth year by giving away more than 10,000 backpacks.

"It feels good helping veterans and their families," says Powell, a member of Travis L. Williams Post 65 in Phoenix. "We pride ourselves on giving back to the veterans community. The backpack program is an

example of that. It's the largest backpack drive in the state of Arizona. And it started at an American Legion post."

Powell appreciates the volunteer service provided by American Legion members.

"I'm a big fan of The American Legion because they put their money where their mouth is," he says. "A lot of people talk about what they are going to do. The American Legion shows you what they are doing. They are results-driven, not just talk. They are always working for vets who can't help themselves."

The goal for HeroZona is to "perfect the concept in Arizona and then move it across the country," Powell says. For now, it's part of his multi-tiered mission.

"We not only want to be among the premier conferences that help vets, but we want to change the way people look at the vet community and make it more vet-friendly," he says. "We want to make sure our younger veterans feel that they are part of the veteran community. A lot of times they feel like they have not aged enough to take part. We want those young vets to participate."

— Henry Howard

Media Bakery

### VERBATIM

The addition of new words to a dictionary is a step in the continuous process of recording our ever-expanding language. The dictionary's job is to report that usage as it enters the general vocabulary.

**Merriam-Webster**, on the addition of 840 new words to its dictionary, including "rando" (short for random), "adorbs" (adorable), "fav" (favorite) and "TL;DR" (shorthand for "too long; didn't read"). Others reflect technological changes, such as "Instagramming," "airplane mode" and "force quit." Source: CNN



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## GALLERY

Veronica Keyes, a forensic anthropologist with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), secures a box containing the possible remains of U.S. servicemembers lost in the Korean War during a unilateral transfer in Wonsan, North Korea, on July 27. The boxes were transported via military aircraft to Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, for review before being transferred to DPAA's forensic laboratory at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class David J. Marshall

## MEMBERSHIP

### NEW POSTS

**Sp. Israel Garza Post 161, Maud, Texas**  
Chartered July 25 (15 members)

**Post 740, Chicago** Chartered July 24  
(16 members)

**Post 522, Indianapolis** Chartered June 5  
(21 members)

**ISCC Post 201, Boise, Idaho** Chartered  
May 31 (12 members)

**Operating Engineers Local 825,  
Springfield, N.J.** Chartered May 29  
(15 members)

**Veterans Healing Camp Post 1775,  
Silver Springs, Nev.** Chartered May 10  
(15 members)

**Post IT02, Vicenza, Italy** Chartered  
May 9 (30 members)

**Post 551, Southport, N.C.** Chartered  
May 2 (23 members)

## MEDIA

### New PSAs available on Legion's Vimeo channel



The American Legion has a wealth of new promotional videos and public service announcements (PSAs) that help tell the Legion's story, as well as aid in membership recruiting, fundraising efforts, support for programs and events, and more.

And it's all easily accessible on The American Legion's Vimeo channel at [vimeo.com/americanlegion](https://vimeo.com/americanlegion).

New PSAs added to the channel include "American Legion Team 100" to promote National Commander Brett Reistad's centennial membership theme of embarking on The American Legion's second century of service. Another new PSA is "Women of The American Legion."

The PSAs and videos housed on the Vimeo channel can be shared via mobile devices, or downloaded onto a computer hard drive and shared without the need for Internet connection. They can also be shared with media outlets and area cinemas to promote what The American Legion does locally and nationally.



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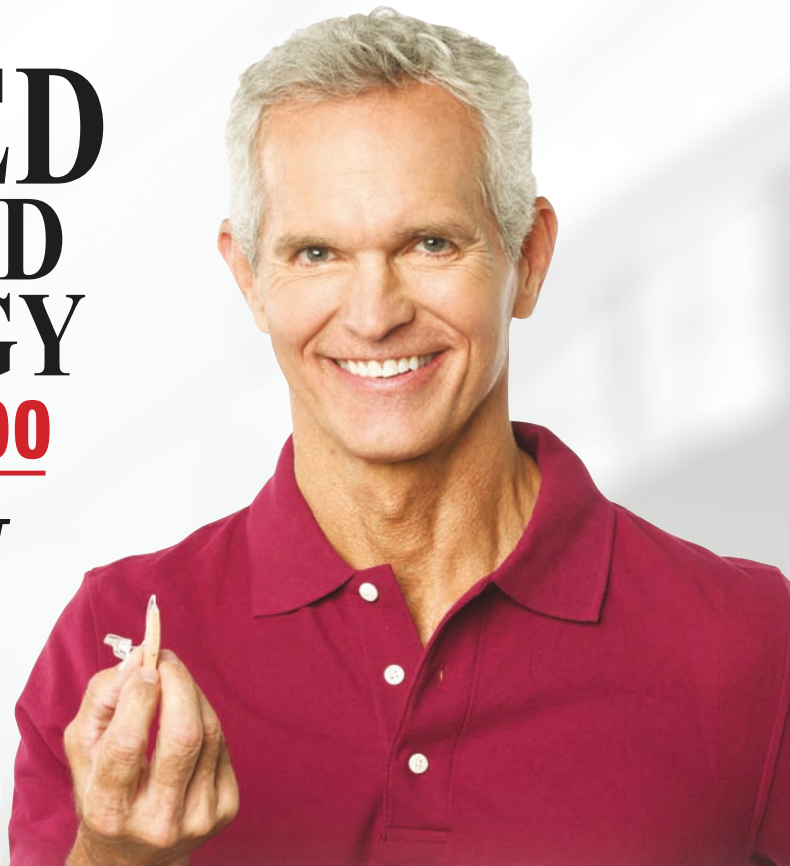
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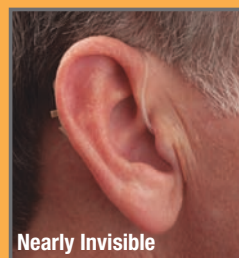
A study by the National Institute on Aging suggests older individuals with hearing loss are significantly more likely to develop Alzheimer's and dementia over time than those who retain their hearing. They suggest that an intervention — such as a hearing aid — could delay or prevent this by improving hearing!

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Airman Anaya Hunter, a 35th Force Support Squadron food service apprentice, smiles while serving a guest at the Grissom Dining Facility at Misawa Air Base, Japan. U.S. Air Force photo

## ACTIVE DUTY

### A leaner force

With some 17 percent of soldiers classified as obese in recent Army studies, the U.S. military is changing the chow line, Military.com reports.

The Marines are turning to Division I collegiate athletic programs – which offer student-athletes lean proteins such as mahi-mahi, bison and “recovery-focused performance plates” – for inspiration.

Nikki Jupe, the University of Oregon’s senior sports dietitian, tells Military.com, “Incorporating the basic nutrition principles will build a foundation for mission readiness, cognitive performance as well as endurance performance” and help “prepare for deployment.”

Specifically, the Marines are providing more options like “chopped eggs, yogurt, cheese, salsa, legumes and trail mixes” as well as vegetarian options and “performance-enhancing foods.”

The Navy has stopped frying foods and selling soda aboard ships at sea. The Army has improved nutrition options at 198 dining facilities, Military.com reports. The military is also color-coding food groups and food types to make it easier for troops to make smarter, healthier choices at mealtime.

## EDUCATION

### When your school closes



**Q:** In May 2015, I was attending ITT Technical Institute using my Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. I lost a few months of my benefits when the school closed. Can I get those months back, and if so, how?

**A:** There is a provision in the law that may qualify you for benefit restoration if your school or program closed permanently within a certain time frame, which includes May 2015. However, if you transferred your credits to another school, college or degree program, you may not be entitled to restoration. To find out if you are eligible, contact VA through “Submit a Question” on the GI Bill website at [benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://benefits.va.gov/gibill), or go to [benefits.va.gov/gibill/fgib/restoration.asp](http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/fgib/restoration.asp).

Valerie Heffner is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Apache Junction, Ariz. [askvalerie@legion.org](mailto:askvalerie@legion.org)

## SOCIETY

### Kick off your Sunday shoes

In 1953, the town of Fort Smith, Ark., outlawed dancing in public on Sundays. At the time, as NPR reports, the mayor of the town said, “Sunday dances endangered public health.” A Fort Smith resident lobbied a city director to repeal the law – long mocked as “the Footloose Law” – this year. And the motion carried unanimously, meaning that the people of Fort Smith can again dance on Sundays – legally.

## CENTENNIAL

### Post 1, Topeka, Kan.

Post 1 claims three past American Legion national commanders, from left, as members: Ralph T. O’Neill (1930-1931), Harry W. Colmery (1936-1937) and Harry G. Wiles (1975-1976). Portraits of all three hang in the post’s main hall.



**SHARE YOUR POST’S LEGACY** Upload stories, photos and videos of your post’s history. [www.legion.org/centennial](http://www.legion.org/centennial)



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## RAPID FIRE



Floodwaters surround homes and businesses in Kinston, N.C., on Sept. 19. U.S. Army photo

### NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

## Support needed in Carolinas after Hurricane Florence

The effects of Hurricane Florence are still felt in North and South Carolina, as residents recover from flooding caused by the mid-September storm. At press time, the death toll from Florence was 43, and damage estimated to be about \$50 billion.

In Shelby, N.C., home of the American Legion World Series, Post 82 members collected and shipped bottled water, cleaning supplies, pet food and other items donated by Cleveland County residents to help those closer to the coast.

"We were very pleased with the response from the community and Legionnaires," Post 82 Adjutant Jim Quinlan said. While Shelby and other cities in central and western North Carolina are in good shape, the eastern part of the state is in "desperate need," he added.

North Carolina Department Adjutant Randy Cash said Spring Lake, N.C., Post 230 was flooded in Florence's aftermath. In late September, he was still seeking assessments from other areas. The department worked with Operation North State, the Carolina Cavalry and other agencies to get supplies to those in need.

South Carolina Department Adjutant Nick Diener said there wasn't a lot of damage in the initial storm, but flooding had prevented people from getting into affected areas to determine what assistance was needed. Post 34 in Rock Hill, S.C., collected care packages for National Guard troops engaged in relief efforts.

The Legion Family nationwide rushed to help, too. In Harveys Lake, Pa., Post 267 members and borough officials loaded a trailer with food, clothing and cleaning supplies. And in Fond du Lac, Wis., the local Sons of The American Legion squadron and Patriot Emergency Response Team collected donations at Post 75.

For American Legion and SAL members affected by natural disasters, the Legion's National Emergency Fund (NEF) provides grants of up to \$3,000 for Legion and SAL members with active memberships, and up to \$10,000 for posts.

For individual NEF grants submitted for Hurricane Florence, applicants:

- Must have been displaced from their primary residence which sustained damages from the hurricane and/or flooding.
- Should have receipts for out-of-pocket expenses (i.e., temporary housing, food while displaced, and other essentials). The intent of the NEF grant is not to replace household goods or living facilities, as these are insurance items.
- Should have photos of the damaged home, as well as hotel, gas and food receipts, or testimony from post, district or department officers attesting to damages.

For American Legion post NEF grants, posts must state why they will cease to perform their duties and activities in the community due to losses sustained. Legion posts that served as community service centers during the disaster may also be eligible for grants to offset their costs in providing food and other services.

To apply for an NEF grant, go to [legion.org/emergency](http://legion.org/emergency). To help provide NEF grants for eligible recipients, go to [legion.org/donate](http://legion.org/donate).



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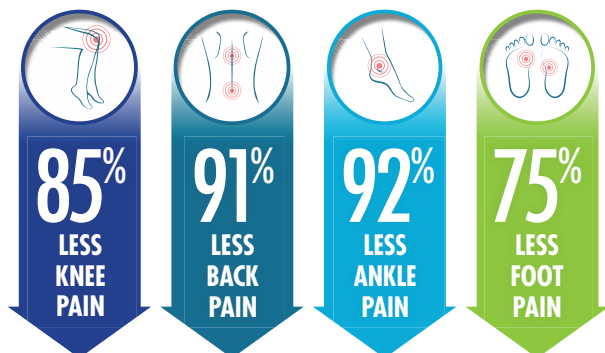
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# THE GREAT WAR 100

## HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

### 'It is worth all we have endured'

**Editor's note:** Throughout the Great War's centennial, The American Legion Magazine will publish excerpts from the letters of D.B. "Bernard" Ryan of Albion, N.Y., who served as an Army infantry officer and helped found American Legion Sheret Post 35 in 1919.

#### FRANCE, NOV. 11, 1918

Dear Mother –

To have stood tonight at Times Square and bought an *Evening Sun*! Never to have been right here and to know tonight that I had contributed by personal contact to the rout of the Enemy and to his defeat – to the joy of the children in these little villages today – to the decoration of the nearby city with French flags and American – better – that I could really share in "la victoire."

In the meantime – now I can say several things since we begin to see the beginning of the end. Do we, though? I wonder – or will we be here for years straightening out these tangled European affairs? Will there be revolutions to subdue and countless unpleasant tasks? What will tomorrow's news be? Nevertheless I will tell them, for I am out of danger for the present and you will be interested to know what I have experienced and how good and merciful God has been to you and to me.

I have been under terrific shell fire and one night was hit – along with several men who accompanied me. A piece of steel missed my spinal cord on my neck by an inch – just a small splinter which the surgeon pulled out 2 hours later. I spent the night at the aid post and returned to duty at daylight. The spot healed in two weeks & four days later we were treated to a night of gas. We worked wisely and well and had no casualties. But I was suffering with the grippe and a cold in the head at the time. We were relieved from that sector a short time later. I stopped and rested and cured the grippe and then caught the troops with a motorcycle to learn that I was not wanted as adjutant by the new Bn Comdr. I then took men into the line to clean up a little piece of woods filled with machine guns. A corporal was shot through the head. A sergeant through the arm, a lieutenant in the leg, my orderly was hit in the temple, a bullet grazed my knee and only made a bruise but another took just a tiny bit from my lip – there is not even a scar to show it. That night I spent in a drizzling rain digging into the ground with a handful of men strung along through a tangle of underbrush while machine guns spit all about us. My battalion was withdrawn to reserve. For me it meant 6 days of weakening dysentery, and on the day I reported at Brig P.C. for duty I could scarcely walk.



#### NOV. 19, 1918

We are in a village of perhaps 3,000. The war affected these homes in the first place by the loss of sons, then by a tightening of food and supplies. Now we find apologies for having no matches, no candles or very few, limited sugar, petrol and bread. And yet, what do I find. I arrive at a station at a cold November 5 a.m. I find no transportation to take me to my destination 12 kilometers away. I ask of the lady of a nearby house if I may step inside to wash and shave. More than welcome. Hot water and a clean towel on the instant – a clean basin and a new cake of soap. And for the trouble – a frank or two – "*Rien, m'sier, absolument.*" And I must not leave until I have warmed myself at the fire and taken a cup of coffee prepared by the lady, tho I have just had breakfast.

This gratitude is real. A French captain, a brigade commander, is entitled to a French officer attached, and our last one was killed by a well directed shell. His replacement joined our staff this evening. He remarked that upon America's entry into the war France expected money and supplies but not men. Then came men, but France was still skeptical. And then came fighting and the news began to spread – we had fighters. And let's follow on – came Chateau Thierry, came St. Mihiel, came the Argonne – America had achieved! It is worth all we have endured.

#### NOV. 24, 1918

Now that the papers have published that the 78th and 79th fought side by side in the Argonne, surely there can be no harm in my mentioning names of places. Look for your map of France and find the Argonne. Then think of a thick wood, of a fog which grows thick so that you can hardly see, of unimproved roads flowing with water, of wet feet and stuck transport. Look at the towns directly north of the Argonne – get their names from the newspapers. If your map is of large enough scale, look for a place of woods – just a small neck east of Grand Pré. I was there and how I came out of there only Heaven knows.

Love, Son



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MKT-P0059

## PERSONAL FINANCE



## Yes, you still need an estate plan

### FOCUS ON FINANCES



J.J. MONTANARO

\$11,200,000.

That's a big number. When last year's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was in the works, there was a lot of hoopla surrounding the potential elimination of the estate tax. While it didn't happen, the basic individual exclusion was doubled to more than \$11 million (over \$22 million for a couple), making estate tax an issue

for very few families. In fact, the Tax Policy Center estimated that only 5,000 of the approximately 2.7 million people who died in 2017 paid estate tax – and that was under the old, more stringent, rules.

All that might have you thinking, "Honey, we can cancel our appointment with the estate planning attorney." Before you pick up the phone, here are six good reasons to keep that meeting on your calendar.

■ **You want to decide who will make decisions for you.**

A lot of estate planning is focused on what happens to your stuff – personal property, investments, real estate, etc. – when you're gone. However, it's also important to put a decision-making framework in place. In other words, you need a power of attorney to name your agent (and perhaps a backup or two) if you're unable to manage your finances. You can discuss how and when it's done with your attorney.

■ **You get to call the shots on your health care.** Same concept, different area. While you're at it, you can lay out your wishes for what should happen – or not happen – if you're terminally ill. Quiz your attorney on any nuances that pertain to your state.

■ **You can minimize the effects of probate (the process of administering your estate).** Over the years, I've worked with a lot of folks interested in avoiding the time, money and public nature of the probate process. Whether that leads you to establish a revocable living trust, strategically utilize beneficiary designations and deeds, or start a robust gifting program, it's a great topic to discuss with your attorney no matter the size of your estate.

■ **You'll make it easier on your loved ones.** Avoiding unnecessary taxes isn't the only benefit of a good plan. By spending a little time (and, perhaps, money) now, you'll help your family avoid added expenses later.

■ **You're concerned that things could get complicated.**

Maybe you're worried about one of your kids or grandkids blowing through their inheritance. Or this could be your second marriage and if something happens to you, you want to take care of your new spouse while also providing for your kids from your first marriage. These are all situations that can be taken care of through an appropriately crafted estate plan.

■ **You want to promote peace instead of conflict.** In my experience, when a family member passes, it's a ripe time for pent-up frustrations to boil over into a full-blown family feud. Do your best to mitigate this by leaving clear guidance regarding your wishes and desires.

Sure, \$11.2 million may be a big number, but it's not big enough to keep you from getting your affairs in order.

*J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner with USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. Submit questions for him online.*

[www.legion.org/usaa/focusonfinances](http://www.legion.org/usaa/focusonfinances)



### TECHNOLOGY

## Spider-men

Scientists at the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) and Purdue University are exploring the properties of spider silk in hopes of engineering lighter, stronger battlefield gear, Military.com reports. These new synthetic materials would be stronger than Kevlar and would likely be used for body armor and possibly parachutes.

"Understanding natural silk will enable us to engineer multifunctional fibers with exponential possibilities," said Augustine Urbas, an AFRL researcher. "The ultrastrong fibers outperform the mechanical characteristics of many synthetic materials as well as steel."

"Estimates indicate that while artificial spider silk may initially cost twice as much as Kevlar, the product's minimal weight, incredible strength, and elasticity and potential adaptability for other needs are characteristics that enhance its salability," a DoD media release explained.



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## How to submit a reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280, e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org) or submit information via our website, [www.legion.org/reunions](http://www.legion.org/reunions).

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are publicized free of charge.

Your notice will appear on our Web site within a week and will remain available online until the final day of your reunion. Upon submission, please allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing only once a year.**

Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

## Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail [reunions@legion.org](mailto:reunions@legion.org).

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life

memberships by their posts. **This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.** Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.**

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.** Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

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**Agerholm DD 826, San Diego, 10/3-7, Stan Hafenfeld,** (505) 292-3234, [auagminer@aol.com](mailto:auagminer@aol.com); **Atkron 115 (VA 115) (Vietnam, 1971-1975),** San Diego, 2/15-17, Howard Triggs, (763) 516-0331, [hwtriggs@gmail.com](mailto:hwtriggs@gmail.com); **Caroline County LST 525, Bellingham, WA, 9/10-14, Frank Wojciechowski,** (360) 647-1463, [wojcie@comcast.net](mailto:wojcie@comcast.net); **Conserver ARS 39, Branson, MO, 4/24-28, Kevin Weaver,** (610) 780-5484, [kcwrdc@yahoo.com](mailto:kcwrdc@yahoo.com); **Donner LSD 20, Cincinnati, 4/29-5/2, Dennis Heimbach,** (610) 775-7539, [dennisheimb@gmail.com](mailto:dennisheimb@gmail.com); **Iowa Veterans Assn, Long Beach, CA, 10/1-5, Paul Ogg,** (360) 908-4856, [kjoggpr@aol.com](mailto:kjoggpr@aol.com)

**Macon CA 132, Myrtle Beach, SC, 5/6-10, Bud Johnson,** (603) 888-1418, [nce223ne@comcast.net](mailto:nce223ne@comcast.net); **Nicholas DD/DDE 449 & FFG 47, Charleston, SC, 10/23-27, Bill & Margie Linn,** (928) 246-7927, [bill.margie@yahoo.com](mailto:bill.margie@yahoo.com); **SG Navy Customs Juliet Forward, Frankfort, KY, 6/21-23, Jim Fussinger,** (859) 250-4398, [fussyj2@yahoo.com](mailto:fussyj2@yahoo.com); **Waldron DD 699, Tampa, FL, 4/24-28, Michael Montalbano,** (813) 977-9652, [mike.montalbano@yahoo.com](mailto:mike.montalbano@yahoo.com)

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**1607th Comm & Electronics Sqdn, All Shops (Dover AFB, DE, 1961-1964),** Joel Gray, [1607thcomm.elect@gmail.com](mailto:1607thcomm.elect@gmail.com)  
**Hospital Corp School (San Diego, 1968),** Ed Christy, (714) 381-4678, [edwchrsty49@yahoo.com](mailto:edwchrsty49@yahoo.com)  
**RTC/NTC Co 454 (1968),** Ed Christy, (714) 381-4678, [edwchrsty49@yahoo.com](mailto:edwchrsty49@yahoo.com)  
**Texas Tower #2 4604th Support Sqdn (Otis AFB, 1962-1963),** Jim Bleil, (602) 377-3547, [nlb1942jsb@gmail.com](mailto:nlb1942jsb@gmail.com)  
**US Army Gen Ord Depot (Nancy, France),** Ronald Schouweiler, (503) 954-8793, [fuchs@graymail.com](mailto:fuchs@graymail.com)  
**VA-85 (NAS Oceana, VA, 1954-1955),** Werner Meyer, (941) 493-0927, [doweswift645@gmail.com](mailto:doweswift645@gmail.com)

## TAPS

**O.N. "Butch" Haggard, Dept. of Maryland.** Dept. Cmdr. 2007-2008, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1994-2013 and Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 2013-2017.  
**Luis R. Quiles-Barrios, Dept. of Puerto Rico.** Dept. Cmdr. 2005-2006, and Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1989-1990 and 1995-1997.  
**William A. Rakestraw Jr., Dept. of New Jersey.** Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 2013-2014, Dept. Cmdr. 1996-1997, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 2005-2009, Nat'l Citizens Flag Alliance Dept. Chmn. 2005-2009, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 2003-2005, Nat'l Finance Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2007-2009, Nat'l Sec. Cmsn. Memb. 2009-2014, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1997-2005, Nat'l Sec. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2005-2007 and Nat'l Resolutions Subcmte. Memb. 2007-2009.  
**Lawrence Strange, Dept. of Florida.** Dept. Cmdr. 1998-1999, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1999-2000, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1991-1996 and Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1996-2010.



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Then, after a moment, the parrot softly asks, "W-w-what exactly d-d-did the turkey do?"

**A FARMER** left his home to spend two weeks in the city. All his life, he'd heard stories about how rude city people could be; as a result, he'd been there for three days and hadn't said a word to anyone but the hotel clerk.

"This is silly," he thought. "How do I know all those stories are true? Even if they are, I'm man enough to deal with a little rudeness."

So the farmer waited for a person who didn't look very threatening, screwed up his courage and finally approached a middle-aged man.

"Excuse me, sir," he said. "Could you tell me what time is it, or should I just go to hell?"

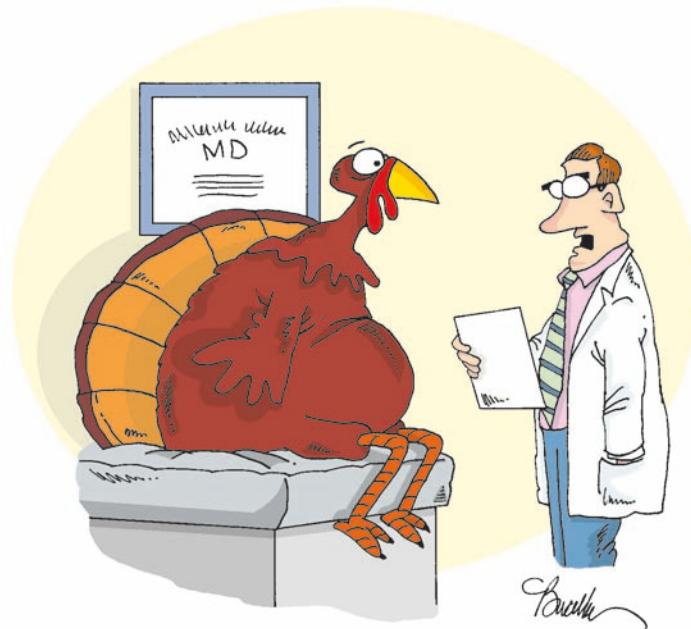


"Sunset, please."

**SHORT AND BABY-FACED**, my buddy Wiggins had trouble being taken seriously in the Army. A mustache, he assumed, would fix that. He was wrong. "Wiggins!" bellowed our drill instructor after spotting the growth. "What's so special about your nose that it's got to be underlined?"

— Submitted by K. Trott, as published in Reader's Digest's "Humor in Uniform"

Do you have a funny military-related anecdote? To share with *Reader's Digest*, visit [rd.com/submit](http://rd.com/submit). Remember to include your American Legion post name and number.



"Carrying around all that extra white meat isn't good for your health."



"We begin tonight's broadcast with breaking news: life has given a local teenager a rude awakening."

**THANK YOU**, student loans, for getting me through college. I don't think I can ever repay you.

**I GOT FIRED** from my job as a taxi driver. It turns out my customers didn't like it when I tried to go the extra mile.

**"THE GERMIEST PLACE** at the airport? The place with the highest levels of bacteria? Those plastic security tubs at TSA. Kind of surprising. Who would have guessed that the tubs where a million sweaty travelers throw their shoes every day would be full of germs?" — Jimmy Kimmel



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